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# BULLETIN

OF THE

## Michigan Ornithological Club.



Published in the interests of Ornithology in Michigan.

A  
Grand Rapids, Michigan.



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# BULLETIN

OF THE

## Michigan Ornithological Club.

Vol. 1. No. 1.

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., JANUARY, 1897.

50 cents per year.

### Progress of Ornithology in Michigan.

THOS. L. HANKINSON.

HAVING consulted all available literature on this subject, I will endeavor to give what notes I have found regarding the development of the study of ornithology in our state. Although my source of information has been limited, I hope that I may be able to present a fair outline of the history of the study of our birds, and give an interest for further investigation in this line by others more qualified for this work than myself.

In looking over the history of this science in the state, there appears to have been three important periods of growth. The first of these includes the time between the printing of Sager's list in 1839, to the first appearance of Hughes' writings in 1869; the second takes the interval of time from 1869 to the issue of Cook's *Birds of Michigan* in 1893; and the third or last epoch continues from 1893 to the present time.

I will, therefore, for the sake of convenience, divide my material with reference to these three marked periods of advance.

#### *From Sager to Hughes.*

Prior to this period beginning with 1839, we have little knowledge of the work done towards advancing this study in our state. The only mention I can find being made of birds before this, was in 1834, when Henry R. Schoolcraft gave a lecture before the Detroit Lyceum on "The birds of the Upper Peninsular." In that same year, he also wrote an article on "A Supposed New Bird" (referring to the Evening Grosbeak). This was printed in *Scientific and Historical Sketches of Michigan*.

Schoolcraft was among the first to call attention to our Michigan birds, yet his

work was of such a kind as to count but little towards the growth of our ornithological science. The first real mark of progress was in 1839, when there appeared a list of 164 species known in the state at that time. This list was carefully prepared by Dr. A. Sager, and it undoubtedly contained every bird known in Michigan up to 1839.

Following this, in eleven years, Cabot's list was published, in 1850. This, however, was not a general list for the state, but was confined to a small locality,—the region about Lake Superior. It enumerated the species existing there as 69. This list contained the names of some rare northern birds, and it was a valuable addition to the knowledge of our birds at that time.

Rev. Chas. Fox, in 1853, published the second list of birds known to exist in the entire state. He numbered these as 212. Thus we see that in the first fourteen years of the life of ornithology in Michigan, there was an addition of 48 species made to our avi-fauna.\*

The next list of Michigan birds was printed in 1861. It was prepared by Dr. Manly Miles, one of our best workers in the scientific field. It contained 203 species.

#### *Writings of Hughes and the work up to 1893.*

We see in the last period that the only work done was in the way of listing the species of the state and localities therein. Little advance towards giving an interest in our birds was made till in the year 1869, when there began to appear the writings of D. Darwin Hughes. He first wrote for a local paper, *The Marshall Democrat Expounder*. In this appeared his "Birds of Calhoun County," in which

\*Dr. S. Kneeland Jr. published in 1857 (Boston Society of Nat. Hist., Vol. VI), a list of the birds of Keweenaw Point, giving 147 species. Coming from so far north it was a very valuable list and one of undoubted accuracy.



he gave 179 species as occurring there. In 1870 he began a series of excellent articles in The Detroit Free Press. In these he described many of our common song and game birds. A number of his writings were reprinted. Several of these may be found in early issues of The School Moderator.

Hughes' writings were a pleasant combination of the poetic and scientific nature. They not only gave valuable notes to the student of birds, but they were also of interest to the general reader. They were therefore widely read, and the interest therefrom was disseminated to many minds. For this reason and because Hughes was the first one to introduce our birds to the people of Michigan, we may well consider him the founder of the ornithology of our state. His place in the history of Michigan ornithology is similar to that of Audobon or Wilson in the history of American ornithology.

Some information regarding the life and work of Hughes was given me in a letter from his old friend, Dr. Morris Gibbs. Thinking they may be of interest, I will give a few facts therefrom. Hughes was a lawyer first practicing at Marshall, in Calhoun County. He kept a book of notes in which he recorded his personal observations on nature in 1867, '68, '69, '70 and '71. He moved to Grand Rapids probably in 1872. Hughes left his fine collections, which tell of his earnest work as a student of birds, to the Kent Scientific Institute at Grand Rapids. He was a good man, a reliable lawyer, and a faithful worker in all he undertook.

Shortly after Hughes began to write, there appeared a number of workers in the field. Among them were several students that have since become well known in ornithological circles. These were A. H. Boies of Hudson, Morris Gibbs of Kalamazoo, Chas. W. Gunn of Grand Rapids, H. A. Atkins of Locke, W. H. Collins of Detroit, and A. B. Covert of Ann Arbor. Prof. A. J. Cook of the Michigan Agricultural College began to write on economic ornithology in state bulletins as early as 1872; Boies, Gibbs and Collins became known in 1875; Gunn and Covert were doing active work in 1876, and Atkins' first notes were published in 1878.

Perhaps no man has given more atten-

tion to our birds or has written more about them than has Dr. Morris Gibbs. He has written profusely, and nearly every year since he began to write in 1875, he has been a constant contributor to scientific literature. His annotated list of 309 species of Michigan birds was published in the Bulletin of the U. S. Geographical and Geological Survey of the Territories for 1879. Dr. Gibbs is a man of great energy and enthusiasm in all scientific work, and his interesting notes and articles add much of pleasure and value to our bird literature. Although Dr. Gibbs has been a worker for many years, his career as an ornithologist is not ended. He still resides at Kalamazoo and is a constant contributor to the scientific journals in this country.

W. H. Collins was another active worker to whom I need to make especial mention. He studied the birds especially in that interesting region about St. Clair Flats. Some of his valuable notes may be found in the columns of those numbers of the Ornithologist and Oologist issued from 1880 to 1882.

Mr. A. H. Boies contributed much to our knowledge of birds by notes obtained from many years of careful study of the birds in the southern part of the state. He added a number of species to our avi-fauna; and in 1875 he published his "Catalogue of the Birds Ascertained to Occur in Southern Michigan." This was an annotated list of the 211 species that were then known in the region mentioned. Mr. Boies is now a civil engineer, but he remains faithful to the study for which he has done so much.

Among these early workers in the ornithological field, there was that enthusiastic student and excellent observer, Chas. W. Gunn. He began writing on birds in 1876. For several years he published a little paper of his own called the Naturalist and Fancier. Not only did he study the birds of Michigan, but he traveled for knowledge of the birds of other regions. He visited California four times and Florida twice, and he also went to Colorado, Panama and other quarters in the East and the West. Gunn's magnificent collection of many hundred skins is now in the museum of the Kent Scientific Institute at Grand Rapids. The members of the Michigan Ornithological Club are



grateful for his library of scientific works, which was kindly donated to the Club by his mother, Mrs. W. S. Gunn of Grand Rapids. He died at the very early age of 28 years, on Jan. 15, 1886.

Mr. Adolphe B. Covert was contemporary with Mr. Gunn in being in part responsible for the rapid strides made in Michigan ornithology at this time. He published in *Forest and Stream* (Vols. XI and XII), beginning in 1876, an annotated list—"Birds of Lower Michigan," embracing 244 species. In 1881 he published an additional list, this time of 252 species. This indefatigable and veteran worker among the birds of Michigan not only wrote many valuable articles during this period upon the habits of birds, but he has credited Michigan with two of the few specimens ever taken of Kirtland's Warbler. These specimens he took in the town of Scio, Washtenaw County, in May of the years 1875 and 1879, respectively.

Another man whom we will ever hold in remembrance as one whose life was that of an ideal ornithologist is Dr. H. A. Atkins. For over forty years he studied the birds about his home at Locke, in Ingham County. Dr. Atkins was a most diligent worker, and he made some very interesting records during his field work. In 1879 it is recorded that he took the first Connecticut Warbler in the state; and in 1883 he published records regarding the Carolina Chickadee and Western Meadow Lark in Michigan. In 1884 he wrote in the *Ornithologist and Oologist* an article entitled "Five Additions to the avi-fauna of Michigan." Here he introduces in our fauna, the Brown-headed Nuthatch, the Long-tailed Chickadee, the Gray-headed Snowbird, the Western Nonpareil and the Ground Dove. He wrote extensively for the local and ornithological papers between the years 1878 and 1885.

Dr. Atkins came to Michigan from his native state, New York, in 1842. This was early in the history of our state, when the country was yet new. Here in the virgin forest Atkins began his studies of nature in her pure form. For twenty-nine years he kept accurate notes of all he saw. He lived to the age of 64 years. In the latter part of his life he had contemplated publishing his notes in book form, but death overtook him, and on May 19, 1885,

he passed away, after living a life most pleasant and useful.

These six ornithologists, Gibbs, Covert, Boies, Collins, Gunn and Atkins, were the pioneers of the science of ornithology in Michigan. To them we should give all credit for establishing this study in Michigan, and for clearing the way for future students.

Shortly after these men began to write, a number of others commenced to take great interest in our birds. Prominent among these were Messrs. N. A. Eddy of Bay City, W. A. Oldfield of Port Sanilac, J. B. Purdy of Plymouth, B. H. Swales of Detroit, Jerome Trombley of Petersburg, J. B. Steere of Ann Arbor, Ed. Van Winkle of Vans Harbor and S. E. White, E. L. Moseley, E. W. Durfee, and R. H. Wolcott of Grand Rapids. These men, for the most part, wrote after the year 1880. As they were all good students and as they studied in various parts of the state, their notes were of great value. A better knowledge of the distribution of the birds in the state, was thus obtained. This spreading of interest was one of the chief characteristics of this epoch in the history of Michigan ornithology.

*Cook's Birds of Michigan and work  
up to the present time.*

We see in this last period that the ornithology of Michigan grew from a rudimentary condition up to a widespread and progressive science with many students eager to solve its mysteries, and to delight in its recreations. Much information about our birds was published, but a good deal of this was unavailable, as it was scattered in newspapers, in scientific periodicals, and in other places where it could not be of general value. At last, Prof. A. J. Cook began to collect these notes. Information regarding the birds of Michigan was obtained from every source—from nearly every student in the state, including such able observers as Gibbs, Boies, Trombley, Eddy, and others, and from the excellent manuscripts of Dr. H. A. Atkins; some notes were obtained from Butler's *Birds of Indiana*; assistance was given by a few of the greatest ornithologists in the country, such men as Dr. J. A. Allen, Dr. Elliot Coues, C. Hart Merriam, Dr.



A. K. Fisher and Robert Ridgway. From several other sources notes were obtained, and a gist of all was published in 1893 in the form of the state bulletin, *Cook's Birds of Michigan*. This gave, in a condensed form, notes regarding relative abundance and distribution in the state of 336 species. In nearly every case, facts concerning the range and time of breeding were given, with many other notes on the food, habits and economic value of our birds. From the facts that this was the most complete and best work ever published on Michigan birds, and that it was not entirely the work of one man, but represented the combined effort of many of our best students, and also that it was printed by the state and thus copies were distributed free of charge so as to be accessible to everyone, we may well consider this the greatest factor in Michigan ornithology in distributing knowledge regarding our birds and increasing an interest in their study.

Within the last three years since Cook published his list up to the present time, there has been a more steady and widening growth in our ornithology than there has ever been before. A few new species have lately been added to our fauna. One of the most remarkable of late records was the finding of a Brunnich's Murre by Mr. Percy Selous, near Greenville, on Dec. 13, 1894. Mr. L. Whitney Watkins captured a Cory's Least Bittern near his home at Manchester on August 8, 1894. This was a remarkable find as it was not only the first individual of this species ever taken in Michigan, but it was one of the few ever taken by an ornithologist. Mr. L. J. Cole was the first to record Baird's Sandpiper in our state. This he took on August 20, 1895, at Spring Lake in Ottawa County. Since then, however, it has been found that this sandpiper was not so rare as formerly supposed, and Mr. N. A. Eddy (*The Nidologist*, Jan., '97), states that he had previously known of its occurrence in Michigan.

It is impossible for me to state as to the extent of ornithological work in our state at the present time, but I am safe in saying that there is now a far greater interest taken in this study than ever before. We are inspired by having in our midst an active member of the American Ornithologists' Union, and one who is interested

heart and soul in our progress. I refer to Professor Walter B. Barrows of the Agricultural College. Prof. Barrows has spent a large portion of his life in studying birds. For eight years he was assistant ornithologist in the Department of Agriculture at Washington.

The present advancement in Michigan ornithology is due largely to the work of a number of enthusiastic students of birds in our state. Among them are included such diligent workers as J. B. Purdy, Jerome Trombley, L. Whitney Watkins, Edwin Arnold, N. A. Eddy, Dean C. Worcester and Ed. Van Winkle. With such men at the helm we may be sure that the ship of ornithological progress will sail on more staunchly and yet faster now than ever in the past.

From the time of Hughes, the number of students in our field has constantly been increasing, and the knowledge of our birds has been growing accordingly. Thus we see that in the discovery of new species in our state alone the advance has been great; there have been over 200 birds added to our fauna since Sager's list was issued in 1839. The great advance, however, has not been made in adding species to our fauna, but in learning more about the birds themselves, their distribution in the state, their food, their songs and nesting ways, and every other phenomenon connected with their habits.

Although much work has been done in the past, there is still a broader field open before us. Wonderful facts are constantly being revealed to us from the mysterious lives of birds. Every day new and difficult problems confront us. To solve these there is no better way than by uniting our powers and thus profiting by each other's knowledge and experiences. We have therefore formed an organization, the MICHIGAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB. From you who are not yet members of this Club and who love the study of our birds, we ask support and assistance. Join our fraternity of honest, earnest workers in the development of a new epoch in the history of our ornithology, and one which we trust and hope will be characterized by a co-operation of all Michigan ornithologists in the proper pursuance of this delightful study of nature's most beautiful and most graceful creatures—the birds.

Agricultural College, Ingham Co., Mich.



## Michigan Ornithology to the Front.

PROF. WALTER B. BARROWS.

MICHIGAN birds are and ought to be of special interest to Michigan people. Facts about the bird-life of this great state are far too scanty and incomplete to be creditable to its residents, and every honest, well planned effort to increase this knowledge should be encouraged to the utmost. Such information as is needed can be best collected and recorded only by residents, those who, month after month and year after year, keep their eyes open and their minds alert for new facts about bird-nature, and patiently and intelligently gather, compare, sift and arrange their observations, always keeping themselves informed of the work of others, and always willing to give others the benefit of their own notes and ideas. The best work in any science can be accomplished only by knowing what has been done already, and taking advantage of the foundation thus laid; this much at least is indispensable. Often it is well to know something of what others are now attempting, and even to estimate roughly what remains to be done, but these are insignificant points in comparison with the basis just mentioned. What remains to be done is so great in comparison with that already accomplished, that no live man or woman can afford to waste time in going over the work of another, unless it has been so carelessly done as to merit entire disregard.

Geographically, Michigan is one of the

most interesting states in the Union for bird study. Stretching from the southern prairies into the almost sub-arctic forests of the north, it includes great areas of the three principal life zones of the United States—the Austral, the Transition, and the Boreal, and as yet only the start has been made toward defining accurately the lines of demarkation between these important zones.

The deforesting of the state has made remarkable changes in its avi-fauna, and some of these changes are still in progress; while the rapid increase in cultivated areas,

the introduction of new varieties of fruit trees, grasses, weeds, and insects, and the drainage and disappearance of extensive swamps and marshes, have combined to alter in a marked degree the conditions under which many of our birds continue to exist.

The Bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club should become at once the medium for a most stimulating and helpful interchange of experiences

among our bird lovers and students of nature, and it is not too much to predict that its pages will furnish more information as to Michigan birds than all the pages of all the other bird journals of the world, besides giving us the cream of bird news from those parts of the world which are so unfortunate as to lie outside our borders.

The advent of this journal marks an epoch in the ornithological history of the state; let us see that the venture is at once placed beyond the danger of an experiment, and that the bulletin shall grow in popularity and usefulness with each successive





issue. It merits the hearty support and co-operation of every live naturalist in the state; let us see that it has it.

### Vireonidae of Wayne County, Mich.

W. A. DAVIDSON.

**D**URING more than twenty years of field work in this county, I have met with but three species of this family—the Red-eyed, the Warbling, and the Yellow-throated Vireos. All are common summer residents, the Red-eyed being the most abundant.

They arrive with us from the first to the fifteenth of May, about the time that leaves are well formed, and insect life has assumed spring activity; migrating more as individuals than in flocks, seldom more than three being seen together. Their departure south takes place in September, usually the last week.

Their food consists of caterpillars, grubs, and various small insects, also of worms and spiders. Their hooked bills enable them to tear apart cocoons for the chrysalids they contain, also assisting them in unrolling leaves, which contain a small grub of which they seem to be very fond. The claws are well curved allowing the bird to obtain a good hold on small twigs, and they suspend themselves as do the Chickadees, when examining the under sides of the leaves.

They commence nesting the last of May, and it is then that the woods resound with their song. All are charming singers, the early morning and shortly before sundown being the time to hear these birds at their best, the male singing to his mate, assuring her of his presence, and driving away the dull care of the one who keeps house. That the song is appreciated is in evidence as a faint warble comes from the throat of the tired one. (The habit of answering from the nest is particularly noticeable in this family and some of the fly catchers, as Wood Pewee, *Contopus virens*, and the genus, *Empidonax*.) Both sexes assist in nest building and incubation. On May 10th, 1896, I found a nest of the Red-eyed Vireo containing two fresh eggs, and on the 17th, the eggs (then three in number and one Cowbird's) were well advanced in incubation. Upon again visiting the nest on the 24th, I found that the eggs of the Vireos had hatched, but the Cowbird's egg was intact so I removed it, and found

upon breaking it that it was nearly hatched. I think the period of incubation to be eleven days. Both parents assist in feeding the young. The nests are pendulous, generally well out on a horizontal limb in some convenient fork, where the drooping limb has a tendency to hide the nest.

The Red-eyed Vireo builds a nest of fine strips of bark, weed stalks, grasses, decayed wood, often working in bits of paper, wasp-paper, or moss, and lining the nest with fine grass, round grass stems, horse hair or pine leaves. This bird will often lay before the nest is completed, and I have found nests that were alive with vermin, especially is this the case where decayed wood is used and the nest is bulky. Deep woods or thickets are usually chosen as nesting sites, and when in deep woods it is generally near a path if not directly over it, or along the border. Nest from three to twenty feet from ground. Eggs, three to four, dimensions .95 x .65 for largest I have taken, down to .78 x .54. I have never been able to find a set of more than three eggs. Color of eggs, white, flecked or spotted with reddish or dark brown. This species as well as the next suffers considerably from the evil habit of the Cowbird.

The Warbling Vireo's nest is made pretty much the same as is that of the former, but more compactly woven. Seldom is any paper or wasp-paper used. Occasionally a feather is worked in the side. Eggs, 3 to 4, same as in preceding species but smaller, from .70 x .50 to .75 x .56. Nests from 4 to 20 feet from ground, in orchards or open woods on high ground.

The Yellow-throated Vireo makes its nest of grasses and strips of fine bark, lined with grasses or horsehair, the outside stuccoed with mosses, lichens, and bits of cocoons, held in place by caterpillar's silk and cobwebs. A very handsome nest. Eggs, 3 to 4, are creamy or salmon color before being blown, when they become more or less creamy white. The markings are dark purplish brown, some eggs showing lilac shell markings. The markings are scattered more or less all over the egg. Largest dimensions, .80 x .62; smallest, .70 x .45. This species frequents heavy, damp woods in which there are catholes or through which a stream of water runs. Nest from 4 to 20 feet from the ground.

Detroit, Mich.



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Articles for publication should be sent to one of the editors. All advertisements, subscriptions, or business communications should be sent to the Managing Editors.  
Author's separates can be furnished at a very reasonable rate if application is made when the article is sent.

The Bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club does not appear as a rival of any publication, but rather as a hearty co-worker in their field of usefulness in the diffusion of knowledge regarding birds. We stand for hearty co-operative work among the birds of the Great Lake Region, and trust and hope that all workers in ornithology in Michigan, and adjoining states and Canada, and all interested in the birds of this region will join with the Club, whose interests we represent, as a field worker and observer, and share with us in a work of pleasure and health and profit. To all such we extend a cordial greeting.

Officially received Feb'y 2nd, 1897:

"The Wilson Ornithological Chapter of the Agassiz Association sends hearty greetings to the Michigan Ornithological Club, in whose work we feel a deep interest. We are working side by side toward the same end—the advancement of our knowledge of the birds in every possible way. It is pleasing to notice that the editor-in-chief of the publications of each organization is a member of both organizations."

We acknowledge with hearty thanks this graceful courtesy of a sister club to us, and will gladly join with any and with all in the fulfillment of our unselfish purpose.

This Bulletin will fearlessly expose the methods of any firm or individual dealing dishonestly with any member of the Club, or with any ornithologist in this state, whether a member or not.

We assert ourselves unhesitatingly in favor of the strict enforcement of our game and fish laws, and will at all times do our utmost to aid State Warden Osborn, of our Club, in bringing all offenders of the same to speedy justice. Any members, or others, who know of any violation of these laws, will be expected to promptly notify any officer of the Club or any of the editorial board of this paper or Mr. Osborn personally, and the laws will be speedily vindicated. The editors of this official bulletin will reserve space in its columns for the reports of all interested in this work of protection, and will be glad of notice of all violations with the names of the offenders.

We applaud Governor Pingree's prompt announcement that he will remove from office any prosecuting attorney who refuses to properly prosecute violaters of the game and fish laws.

There is not an article, note or news item in this paper which is not written by a member of the Michigan Ornithological Club.

Each member of the Club will co-operate with the American Ornithologists' Union committee on the protection of our native American birds from needless destruction. Mr. Wm. Dutcher, 525 Manhattan Ave., New York City, is chairman. Write to him.

There will be, in each subsequent number of this bulletin, space devoted to questions and answers. Send them along. This is to be the Club's medium of conversation for discussion and for study. Compare your notes.

In sending in notes and news for publication, kindly write them carefully upon a separate sheet and not mixed throughout a personal letter. It will save the editor a great amount of labor if you will remember this.

We receive a sad notice of the death of Major Chas. E. Bendire. He died at Jacksonville, Florida, on Feb. 4, 1897.

Major Bendire has been for many years curator of the Department of Oölogy in the U. S. National Museum. We all know him as the author of that great work, "The Life Histories of North American Birds."

The death of this excellent man and earnest ornithologist will be lamented by every student of birds in America.



**NOTES.****Murderous Red-headed Woodpeckers.**

One afternoon, last summer, while sitting quietly in the house, I heard a great chattering, and distressing cries among the birds on the lawn. Hurrying out to investigate the disturbance, I found the Red-headed Woodpeckers waging fierce war on the young Baltimore Orioles. Saw one of the Woodpeckers flapping his wings and striking with his bill, with considerable force, something on the ground, which proved to be a young Oriole, just out of the nest. The Orioles succeeded in driving him away once, but he immediately returned and by the time rescue was at hand the little bird was almost dead. During the battle the Robins and Catbirds kept up an incessant din, but always at a safe distance, apparently thinking the noise they made, sufficient encouragement. The Woodpeckers did not give up the conflict until they had killed all the young Orioles on this four acre lawn, attacking them in the nests, leaving one hanging dead on the edge of the nest. My feelings toward the whole Woodpecker family, since this brutal attack, have been so unpleasant, I quite rejoiced when I learned how quickly the English Sparrows humiliated and banished one of their number that appeared in one of the trees of the city, during the cold weather in January.

E. O. KELSEY.

Holmcroft, Grosse Ile.

**Note from Barry County.**

In going to my work every day last summer, I used to pass a large elm tree. In this a pair of English Sparrows had taken up their abode, in a hole in a large limb. One morning as I was passing along, I observed a pair of Crow Blackbirds at work destroying the nest. They succeeded in driving the Sparrows away, and in a short time they built in this little hollow a nest of their own, in which they reared four young.

GOTTLIEB BESSMER.

Hastings, Mich.

**Cardinal Grosbeak and King Rail, in Winter.**

Colonel Thorn and Mr. Abel Fellows, two of Hudson's most enthusiastic sports-

men, reported that they had shot a red bird in a swamp in Hillsdale County, on Dec. 4th. This swamp is located in the northern part of the county. I was anxious to know just what sort of a red bird it could have been, so had the Colonel hunt up the bird and bring it to me. I was very much surprised to find that the bird was a genuine Cardinal Grosbeak, and the fact of its tarrying in this latitude while snow covered the ground is something unheard of by me before. These two sportsmen shot a King Rail in the same locality Dec. 11.

A. H. BOIES.

Hudson, Mich.

It is well known that the Cardinal Grosbeak is occasionally found in northern latitudes in winter, and the fact is an interesting one. May we not have a note from Professor Barrows upon this subject for our next issue? We are very glad of such notes as these.—Ed.

**Swainson's Hawks and Black Guillemots.**

I wish to report several Swainson's Hawks killed in this county (Wayne). One was killed by John Stocker, near Grosse Point, and hangs in his store window on Russell St.—this is a female in the light plumage; the other, a male in the dark plumage, was in Campion Bros.' (taxidermists) on Grand River, near 5th St.

Two Black Guillemots were killed at the St. Claire Flats. One of them is now in the possession of C. Havens, dealer in sporting goods.

W. A. DAVIDSON.

Detroit, Mich.

**How about our Birds in the South?**

This recent cold weather must have had its effect upon the less hardy birds in the south. I noticed that the temperature at Knoxville, Tenn., went as low as two degrees below zero. I sincerely hope that there were no Bluebirds in that region. Have the English Sparrows suffered from the cold in your vicinity?

LYNDS JONES.

Oberlin, Ohio.

Mr. Hay writes from Texas that it "froze a nigger" in Houston. Let us hope the birds were spared.—Ed.



### Is the English Sparrow Becoming Less Common?

How are the English Sparrows faring in your locality? Are they as abundant as in former years? They have certainly diminished more than one-half in numbers at Plymouth, compared to what they have been in former years. I think it is *not* owing to the state bounty law, for no bounty has ever been paid in Wayne County, because of the failure of the Board of Supervisors to make appropriations for a payment of the same. Perhaps they have increased in other localities, but they are certainly less common here.

I hope that all members of our Club will make careful observations in the various localities and report in the near future, for I think that this is a point of much interest to its members.

JAMES B. PURDY.

Plymouth, Mich.

Let all members of the Club kindly answer this question in the next issue.—Ed.

### Notes from the South.

This country is very different from my home in Michigan. A man told me yesterday that twenty miles south of here, out on the prairie, there are now geese, cranes and ducks by the thousands; so much rain that every hole is full of water. I hope to get out there soon. I have seen so many of them here, that I take no more notice of the Turkey Buzzards than I did English Sparrows at home. They are in this city by the thousand, and often stand about in the streets and sit upon the housetops. There is a place in the west part of the city know as "Buzzard's Roost," and I went down there one afternoon about half past four, to see the birds come in. The trees are very high and when all have arrived from the surrounding country, they are fairly black with them. There is a \$5.00 fine for shooting them and they are very tame. These birds roost here at all times except when they are nesting, when they stay in the pine woods about four miles from the city. They nest in April and May. But this is perhaps of more interest to me than to you, so far away.

CHAS. V. HAY.

Houston, Texas, Jan. 30th, 1897.

### Nesting of the Lark Sparrow at Macon, Lenawee Co.

This bird is a rare summer resident of Lenawee County. Several years ago I took some sets and nests, one that I call to mind placed beside a lump of dirt in a freshly plowed field, and another under a mullein plant, completely covered by a large leaf. This was in the spring of 1885. Then for a long time the birds seemed to be absent as summer residents, until May of 1892, when a pair were located, and no doubt nested, in an oat field near my house. Then another blank until April 20, 1896, when I took a beautiful set of five eggs and nest. The nest was placed on ground beside a large bunch of red-root. The nests are much like the nests of Vesper Sparrow only larger, and less grass used in the lining. This last one was lined exclusively with horse hair. They are a large and beautiful species, and I regret that they are not more abundant in Michigan.

MARK B. MILLS.

Adrian, Mich., Jan. 27, 1897.

Greenville, Mich., Feb. 9, 1897.

L. W. WATKINS, Esq.,

Manchester, Mich.

Dear Sir:—Do you wish me to fill out another schedule form with spring migration notes this season? I saw the first Robin (as a migrant) last Friday, and seven on Sunday; also on that day a Crow. While up North hunting on the Upper Peninsular, I got a couple of Hawk Owls, a Raven and several Arctic Three-toed Woodpeckers. The birds are beginning to know it is approaching nesting time. The Nuthatches this morning are particularly vociferous and combative.

Very faithfully yours,

PERCY SELOUS.

I make public answer to the first question in this interesting note, for the benefit of all concerned. Start at once taking migration notes. Blanks will be mailed to all members of the Club, to all who aided in the work last season and to all who may request, on or before March 1st, '97. My duties as Editor-in-chief of this Bulletin, as well as Chairman of the Migration Committee, necessitate the delay.

L. W. W.



### Capture of *Uria troile* (Murre) at Gibraltar, Mich.

DEAR FRIEND:—I have the pleasure of sending you an account of the capture of a bird whose presence in Michigan has been questioned. I can find no record for this state, but Mr. Covert says it has been reported. This bird, a fine ad. male, was shot from a flock of several near Gibraltar, Mich., Dec. 26th, 1896, by some duck hunters. They did not know the bird, so brought it to Mr. J. H. Butler of River Range. As he is an old duck hunter and had never seen the bird, he sent it to me to be mounted and identified. It is now at my office at the University of Michigan museum. It is *Uria troile*, or Murre.

Three Snowy Owls were killed by W. W. Belknap at St. Clair Flats and sent to me Feby. 9th.

Mr. Covert received six Old Squaw Ducks from Jack Simms of East Tawas.

A boy brought me a fine ad. male Redpoll taken from a large flock near here on Feby. 8th.

Received four Short-eared Owls from Lenawee Co. the other day, and in December last a fine Acadian Owl was killed near here.

N. A. WOOD.

Ann Arbor, Mich.

Dr. Gibbs reports *Uria troile*, "occasionally taken on Lake Superior." (Annotated list of Birds of Michigan, 1879, page 496.)

We will hope to hear from Dr. Gibbs concerning the early reports upon this species in our next issue.—Ed.

### The Migration Work.

The Migration Committee will continue their work this spring, and blanks will be sent to all who aided in the work last year, and to anyone else who may request them. Residents in the state should apply to Mr. L. W. Watkins, Manchester, Michigan.

Commencing this spring, the committee will enlarge their field, taking in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, Iowa and Ontario; Mr. W. Earle Mulliken, 191 First Ave., Grand Rapids, Mich., taking charge of the work. Persons in these states should write him at once.

A list of the stations will be printed in an early issue of this bulletin.

### PERSONALS.

Prof. Walter B. Barrows is doing splendid work in the interests of natural history in this state, through his instructive talks upon economic zoölogy at the State Farmers' Institutes being held this winter.

Mr. Lynds Jones of Oberlin, Ohio, is the efficient editor of the Bulletin of the Wilson Ornithological Chapter of the Agassiz.

Mrs. Estelle O. Kelsey of Grosse Ile made the editor-in-chief a pleasant little visit at Fairview Farm Jan. 18th and 19th.

Bryant Walker, Esq., of Detroit, Michigan's expert conchologist, spent Dec. 28th in looking over the land shells at the University of Michigan museum.

Mr. Leon J. Cole of Grand Rapids, gives interesting notes regarding a peculiarly marked specimen of the Lesser Scaup Duck, in THE OSPREY, Jan., '97, in which the feathers of breast and belly are strongly tipped with rufous, the neck, back, secondaries and tail showing traces of the same color.

Mr. Bradshaw Hall Swales of Detroit is now a student in the U. of M. at Ann Arbor, and a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Mr. L. D. Watkins of Manchester, is chairman of the recently appointed committee on anthropology in the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society, and is also one of its committee of historians. Mr. Watkins came to Michigan from New Hampshire with his father in 1834, and has since made Fairview Farm his home.

Mr. A. B. Durfee, the veteran collector of Grand Rapids, has been wisely chosen president of our Club for another year.

Mr. Mark B. Mills of Macon, was elected register of deeds by an overwhelming majority in Lenawee County on the republican ticket.

It has been a pleasure to receive kind words from such veteran ornithologists as Purdy, Trombley, Covert, Gibbs, Miles, Boies and Steere, and to know that they are so interested in the work and success of the Michigan Club.

Mr. T. L. Hankinson of the Michigan Agricultural College, must be acknowledged the state's authority on stalking shore-birds. Ask Cole and Mulliken.

Prof. A. J. Cook is already one of the most popular lecturers in Californian institute work, and though so far away, those in his home state are personally interested in his success.

Dr. Robert H. Wolcott of the University of Nebraska, promises the editor-in-chief a visit next season, and another of the old-fashioned (if Covert comes too), red-letter collecting trips is promised at this end.

Mr. E. W. Durfee of Lordsburg, New Mexico, is home on a sick leave. He had a severe attack of mountain fever, but has entirely recovered now. He expects to return west this spring.



The result of the trip East of Mr. Norman A. Wood for the purpose of studying the newer methods of preparing and arranging mounted specimens amid natural surroundings, is already productive of grand results in Michigan University Museum. Call and see and perhaps Mr. Wood will give you a button-hole bouquet of his own make.

Hon. Chase S. Osborn, Sault Ste. Marie, State Game and Fish Warden of Michigan, has done valiant service in his untiring energy in the protection of our native fish and game this fall, and thanks are due him from every member of the Club.

Mr. Geo. H. Walker, Belvidere, Ill., has favored the committee on bird migration with very valuable notes on several species continuously for many years, beginning with notes from his grandfather's records.

Dr. Morris Gibbs, the famous "Scolopax," is now issuing in American Field a series of articles upon Game Birds of the Great Lakes, which alone are worth the subscription to that great weekly exponent of the sportman's interests in America.

Chief Simon Pokagon of the Pottawattamies has one of his appealingly eloquent and very accurate articles entitled, "The Wild Pigeon of North America," in The Chautauquan, Vol. XXII, No. 2.

Frank B. Webster Co., Hyde Park, Mass., will give a reward of \$10.00 to the party who enables them to procure a Black-capped Petrel. This amount in addition to what they pay for the specimen.

Mr. Norman A. Wood of Ann Arbor, has several fine specimens of American Rough-legged Hawk, sent him to be sold at \$1.00 per skin. They were killed at New Baltimore, Macomb Co.

If you want an English Setter, and one that will suit you, we suggest that you inquire of Mr. A. B. Covert of Ann Arbor, before you buy one—he sometimes has one to spare.

Mr. E. W. Durfee visited his old home at Plymouth, Michigan, during January, and incidentally called on Messrs. J. B. Purdy and Robert C. Alexander.

The editor-in-chief acknowledges the generous gift from Mr. L. J. Cole of a fine skin of Baird's Sandpiper (*Tringa Bairdii* Coues). It was taken by him Aug. 24th, 1896, at Spring Lake, Ottawa County, Michigan.

### RECORD OF MEETINGS.

January 8, 1897.—The first regular monthly meeting of the Club for the year was called to order at eight o'clock with the President in the chair. The Librarian reported 270 catalogued books and periodicals in the library. Mr. Chas. L. Cass of Hillsdale was elected an active member of the Club. The managing editors of the bulletin reported that it was hoped that they might bring out the first issue of the paper during February. Mr. Mulliken read an invitation from the Cooper Ornith-

ological Club of California, to be present at their Annual Assembly to be held at San Jose.

A paper entitled, "A Trip to Grassy Island," by Mr. B. H. Swales, was read by Mr. Read in the absence of the author. Mr. Swales' paper gave a very interesting account of the difficulties connected with collecting the eggs of some of the marsh birds, and gave notes on their nesting habits. Considerable discussion followed as to whether the different species of rails ever lay in the same nest, and finally it was decided that in all probability they do.

February 12, 1897.—After the reading of the minutes of the last meeting, the Treasurer's report was read. Dues for '97 are coming in, but there are still a few out for '96.

The Librarian reported the receipt of the following during the past month: "Hawks and Owls from the Standpoint of the Farmer," "The Crow Blackbirds and their Food," "Bird Day in the Schools," "The Osprey" of Oct. and Dec., '96, and Jan., '97, and "A Preliminary List of the Birds of Wayne Co., Ohio," a Bulletin of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station.

The following were elected members: Honorary, Dr. Manly Miles, Mr. A. H. Boies and Chief Simon Pokagon; active, Judge J. H. Steere, Sault Ste. Marie, and James B. Purdy, Plymouth; and associate, Robt. C. Alexander, Plymouth, and Chas. V. Hay, Houston, Texas.

Mr. Durfee presented the Club with the following sets of eggs: One set of three Red-shouldered Hawk, 1-4 Cooper's Hawk, 1-3 Marsh Hawk, 1-5 Burrowing Owl, 1-10 Florida Gallinule, 1-12 Sora, 1-4 Cliff Swallow, 1-3 Vesper Sparrow, 1-3 Warbling Vireo, 1-3 Traill's Flycatcher, 1-3 Acadian Flycatcher, 1-2 Wood Pewee, 1-3 Scarlet Tanager, 1-4 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 1-3 Red-headed Woodpecker, 1-6 Flicker, 1-3 Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 1-3 Baltimore Oriole, 1-5 Chickadee, 1-2 Black-billed Cuckoo, 1-2 Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1-3 Indigo Bunting, 1-4 Towhee, 1-4 Field Sparrow, 1-3 Lark Sparrow, 1-4 Russet-backed Thrush, 1-4 Wilson's Thrush, 1-4 Wood Thrush, 1-2 Ovenbird, 1-3 Magnolia Warbler, 1-3 Maryland Yellow-throat, and 1-3 Prairie Horned Lark.

"The Pied-billed Grebe," written by



Mr. W. A. Davidson and read by Mr. Mulliken, was the first paper. Mr. Davidson gave the Grebe as a common summer resident near Detroit, where it breeds abundantly. He says that they are very shy, and that he has never found the parent bird on the nest. He tried an experiment with some young birds to prove a statement which he had heard, that they would sink under the water backwards. The birds he had persisted in going head first. In the discussion that followed, Mr. Durfee and Mr. Laraway said they had seen Grebes sink slowly down till only their bills were above the water.

Following this was a paper by Mr. Norman A. Wood, who gave many practical hints as to what could yet be accomplished in the study of the birds of Michigan.

The program was concluded by a paper entitled, "Nesting Habits of the House Wren," by Mr. A. B. Durfee. Many peculiar nesting places of the Wren were mentioned, one of the most interesting of which was a nest in a ball of twine which had been used from the middle, leaving a sort of hollow sphere. After a general talk on Wrens the meeting adjourned.

LEON J. COLE,  
Secretary.

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February, 1897.

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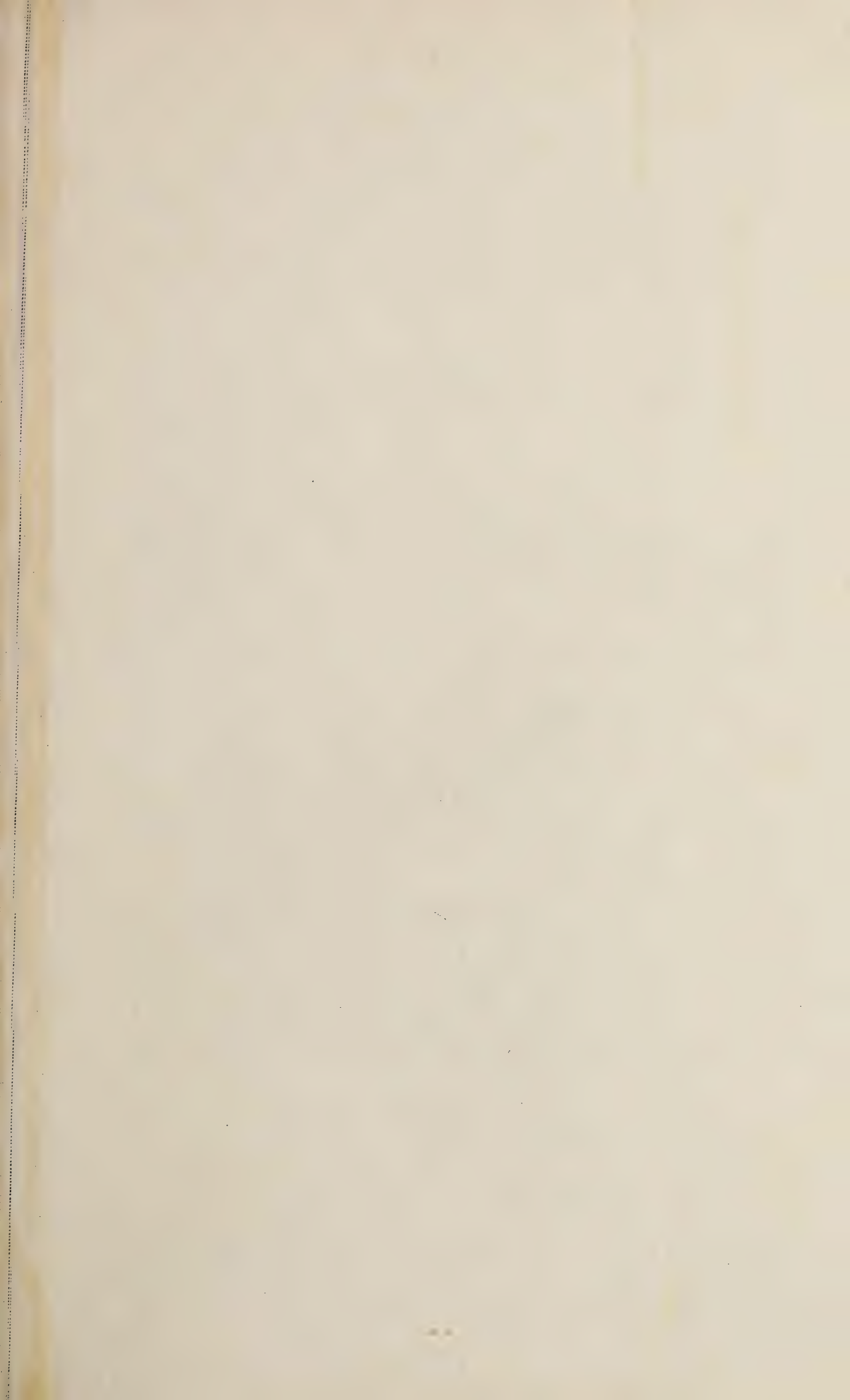
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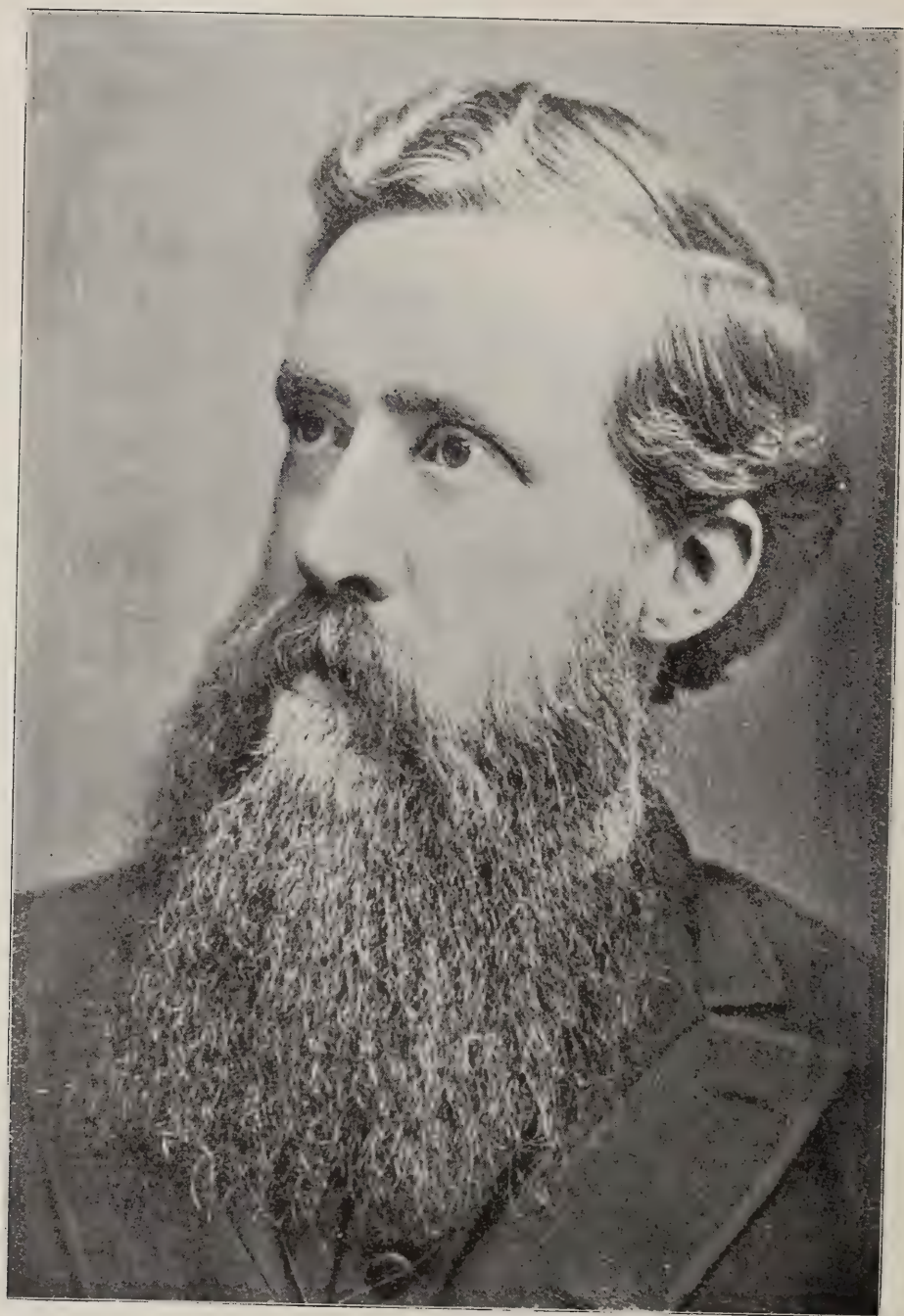
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# BULLETIN

OF THE

## Michigan Ornithological Club.

Vol. 1. No. 2.

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., APRIL, 1897.

50 cents per year.

### Occasional Bird-Notes in and around Greenville.

**A**MONG the more uncommon birds which I have noticed during the past year, is the Pileated Woodpecker. Once common enough, I am satisfied that this bird is really rare now, hereabouts, and although I have roamed much in the surrounding woods for nearly five years, always intent on natural history, I have only met with it on two occasions: In August, last, some five miles up the river, and in December, near Dickson's Creek, six miles north of the city. I am not at all sure but that it was the same bird I saw each time, and a friend reported to me having seen one the other day near where I saw the last.

On the 27th of January, a flock of seven Pine Grosbeaks were feeding on the maples in Cass street. They have, however, to all appearances, left the neighborhood, for I can no longer locate them. Last year they were very numerous, but the first arrivals noticed by me were on February 5th. As I secured some fine specimens then, I did not molest these last visitors. As an instance of the occasional wide distribution of this bird, I may mention that I have recently been informed of its occurrence in France, where it goes by the name of Durbec du Canada.

A Northern Shrike (*L. borealis*) has for some time past frequented the trees around my house and I have had an excellent opportunity of studying the habits of this very interesting bird. Most of these are too well known to need mention, though one trait, allusion to which I have seen in print, I had the satisfaction of witnessing the other day. A neighbor has a Canary hanging in a cage in full

view of the window, and I saw the Shrike swoop down from the topmost twig of a tall poplar and dash violently against the pane. My neighbor tells me that it is the second time that the same thing has happened.

While on the topic of the somewhat unusual, perhaps the following may be worthy of record. Last summer I had a young American Bittern (*B. lentiginosus*) brought me alive, and not wishing to destroy it, I turned it loose in a small marsh close to the house, in hopes it might get full winged and depart. A few days afterwards the same bird—I could tell it by slight deformity of the bill—was brought me again, and after feeding it with some frogs I again put it down in the marsh. The weather was now very hot and the water all dried up, and as I saw no more of my Bittern, I concluded that frogs, etc., had played out and that he had sought pastures new. However, shortly afterward a ring and the greeting, "Did you want to buy a bird?" met me. It was my poor friend once more, but so wretched and emaciated that I hardly recognized him. No doubt the frogs were no longer there, but feeling something peculiar about the crawl of the bird, I extracted—of all things—some huckleberries and other berries. Is this not remarkable? We all know that hunger will do much, but I should have imagined that the creature would have simply starved to death rather than take to such a diet. Can any of our members recall anything similar, with so strictly carnivorous a bird? Feeling now, more than ever, an interest in the bird, I fed him till strength was regained, and then taking him up the river, deposited him in a bayou where batrachians were plentiful, and he would be safe from the small boy.

PERCY SELOUS.



## To the Michigan Ornithological Club:

BY CHIEF SIMON POKAGON.

WITH a joyous heart I received and read the first number of the Bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club, published in the interest of the birds of my native state.

Certain it is, the more we study the characters and habits of animals, the more we become impressed with their intelligence, and the wisdom of Him who created them.

In early life I was deeply mortified as I witnessed the grand old forests of Michigan, under whose shades my forefathers lived and died, falling before the cyclone of civilization like before the prairie fire.

In those days I traveled thousands of miles along our winding trails, through the wild solitude of the unbroken forests, listening to the song of the woodland birds, as they poured forth their melodies from the thick foliage above and about me. Very seldom now do I catch one familiar note from those early warblers of the woods. They have all passed away, but with feelings of the deepest gratitude I now listen to the songs of other birds which have come with the advance of civilization. They are with us all about our homes, and like the wild-wood birds which our fathers used to hold their breath to hear, they sing in concert, without pride, without envy, without jealousy; alike in forest and in field; alike before the wigwam and the castle; alike for savage and for sage; alike for beggar and for prince; alike for chief and for king. I am so glad it is the mission of the members of this Club to associate themselves in closer communion with the bird creation, so as to become better acquainted with their habits and characteristics; teaching freely to others the knowledge they have gained through sacrifice and unremitting toil, that they too may learn to love, defend and preserve these beautiful flowers of animal creation.

It was not necessary to complete the

happiness of singing birds, that the Great Spirit, in His wisdom, should have given them such beautiful plumage, and put such melodious songs into their mouths, any more than it was necessary for the happiness of the flowers that they were painted in such delicate colors, and made to breathe forth such rich perfume. We should regard their beautiful plumage, as well as their sweet songs, as our inheritance, to be guarded and protected from the spoiler. They pour forth their loving songs without malice, to please the tyrant who has imprisoned them within the walls of an iron-bound cage; and still stranger, they will continue to sing their sweetest notes to the cruel wretch who has blinded their eyes with a red-hot iron, in the belief that their song is then more touchingly melodious.



When we consider their pure, unselfish nature, it does not seem possible that mortal man, endowed with reason, could prove unfaithful to so sacred a trust, placed under his dominion by the Divine, who has most emphatically declared that not even one sparrow falls to the ground without His notice. It is a lamentable fact that ladies of fashion will persist in wearing dead birds on their hats, thus creating a demand for

millions of song birds that otherwise might live. A few years since, they undertook to introduce artificial snakes, frogs and lizards for that purpose; failing in that, now let them show the same regard for birds that they did for reptiles, using artificial ones instead, and thereby try to satisfy the greed of fashion, and spare the birds.

There is no bird in Michigan, perhaps, more prized socially and for its song, than *au-pe-tchi*, the Robin. When unmolested, about many houses it appears almost domesticated. It is one of the largest song birds known among the feathered tribes. For some cause yet unexplained, to my knowledge, no larger bird has a musical voice. Between this bird and man no creature has yet opened its mouth in song, hence *au-pe-tchi* is bound to us by that



sacred tie which binds us to the Heavenly.

For several years a pair of these birds built their nest close to the door of my wigwam. I knew them when they returned each spring, as well as I knew my next-door neighbor when I met him. Each spring, on their return, the bridegroom never failed to take his place on the topmost branch of an elm, so close that I could see each motion of his mouth, his swelling throat, and sparkling eyes. He knew me, seemingly, as well as he knew his bride, for at such times he would sing with all his soul, "*Boo-sho-nick-con, Po-ka-gon?*" ("How do you do, my friend Pokagon?") And I always responded, "*Boo-sho-nick-con, Au-pe-tchi?*"

I have often watched these birds search for angle worms under two inches of newly fallen snow. As, with measured tread and tiptoe hop, they moved along the surface, every now and then they would stop, bending their heads low and to one side in listening mood, and thrusting their bills through the snow they seldom failed to drag forth a worm. I am fully satisfied that they locate the worms by hearing them squirming under the snow.

The last time these birds ever returned to our home was about the middle of March, before sunrise. I heard them chattering on the roof, and imagined them to say, "*Paw-se-gwin we-wib, paw-se-gwin we-wib*" ("Get up quickly, get up quickly.") I got up and stepped to the door. The bridegroom perched himself at once upon the same tree he had many times before on his return, and sang, "*Boo-sho-nick-con, Po-ka-gon?*" I repeated back, "*Boo-sho-nick-con, Au-pe-tchi?*" ("How do you do, my friend Robin?") Again he began to chant more spirited than before, "*Boo-sho-nick-con, Po-ka——*" when, to my surprise, he appeared suddenly to explode, his feathers flying in all directions, quickly followed by the crack of a rifle. Then—oh, then I knew he was shot! At first I was excited almost beyond control, and rushing towards the trail from whence the sound came—there stood a white boy reloading his gun. Boldly I walked up to him and said, "Sir, you have shot one of my family!" He looked pale as marble, and for awhile, as dumb. Finally he placed one hand on his head as if he expected to be scalped, saying, "I-I-I only shot a Robin." I said, "Come and see

what you have done." I led the way to the house; slowly, he followed. I picked up the torn and bleeding bird and handed it to him saying, "Look at it!" During this time his mate flew about in great excitement, crying *mur-r-der! mur-r-der!* intermixed with the crying of my children who had come to the door. I then proceeded to give the youth a brief history of two birds as connected with our home, and then said, "Now young man why did you shoot that bird? Is it possible that you have murder in your heart?" Looking the bloody bird over, to my surprise, he began to cry, saying, "I did not want to kill it. I only wanted to see how close I could shoot, so far away. I am sorry I killed it. I will never, never do such a thing again."

There are too many men, and sportsmen as well, in Michigan and elsewhere, that too much love to show their skill or feel their power. I hate to think that they love to kill merely for the sake of taking life. How I do wish that all sportsmen, and all who carry guns, when moved to do such reckless acts, would learn to repeat these ancient lines:

"I would not enter on my list of friends,  
(Though graced with polish'd manners and fine  
sense,

Yet wanting sensibility,) the man  
Who needlessly sets foot upon a worm.  
An inadvertent step may crush the snail  
That crawls at evening in the public path;  
But he that hath humanity, forwarn'd,  
Will tread aside, and let the reptile live."

Hartford, Mich.

## Notes on the Great Horned Owl.

BY W. P. MELVILLE.

[Extracts from a paper read before the Windsor Popular Science Association.]

In the winter of 1883-84, I had brought to me to be stuffed, a Great Horned Owl, *Bubo virginianus*, and on opening its mouth I was surprised to find several porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatus*) quills sticking into the tongue and through the sides of the mouth, and even protruding through among the feathers. But you can imagine my astonishment on opening the bird, to find the stomach, intestines, liver, and even the walls of the abdomen pierced through and through by ten or fifteen quills. Evidently he had made a dinner of a porcupine and had swallowed some of the quills with the meat, but while he



must have suffered a great deal of pain, he did not seem to be wasted at all, but was in good condition. I have had quite a number of specimens that had been eating skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), and from my experience I should judge that it is a common food of this owl. The last one I stuffed had in its stomach, part of an American Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus smithsonianus*. It was collected on Peche Island, Lake Erie, last December.

I well remember once being outwitted by a Great Horned Owl, while living in Uniontown, Penn. It was in March, 1871, a friend and I were out collecting, but as there was a high wind and it was very cold, we had poor success. We were on our way home and were going through a piece of woods when our dog, which was running ahead of us, stopped and began smelling around what looked like a bundle of dirty cotton-batton, about the size of one's fist. I ran up and was surprised to see a young owl a few days old—a bunch of grayish yellow down with two great yellow eyes, and two sets of very formidable-looking claws sticking out ready to seize any object that came near. However, as the poor, wee owlet was almost perished with the cold, I took it up and placed it inside my vest, and then began looking around for the nest. I soon discovered the ear-tufts and great yellow eyes of the mother, watching my every movement from between two limbs of a tree near by, and raising my gun I fired, but instead of Mrs. Bubo falling down, she flew up. And after chasing her for half an hour, I gave her up. We went back to the nest and both saw and heard at least one other owlet, but as the wind was high and climbing dangerous, we decided to wait till Monday—this was on Saturday—and come out and get the contents of the nest and the old bird, if we could. On Monday, bright and early, we were at the nest and approached it very cautiously, so as to get a good shot at the old bird. At last I got within range and seeing Mrs. Bubo, as I supposed, I fired. Not a feather moved. I well remember the thrill of delight I felt as I dropped my gun and started to climb. It was one of the hardest climbs I ever had, but there at the other end was a Great Horned Owl and her babies, and were they not worth the exertion and the danger? So up I

went and you can imagine how I felt when I looked into an empty nest. Mrs. Bubo knew her babies were in danger and had conveyed them to a place of safety, and we were outwitted by an owl.

Windsor, Ontario.

Mr. Gottlieb Bessmer of Hastings, was in Grand Rapids, May 19.

Messrs. Miles, Selous, Walker, and Barrows of the Club, read papers before the Michigan Academy of Science at Ann Arbor.

Mr. L. Whitney Watkins of Manchester, has been appointed a Deputy State Warden, by State Game and Fish Warden Osborn.

Miss Frances Margaret Fox, the author of the popular bird stories for children, has joined the M. O. C., and will aid us, in her graceful writings, to create and cultivate, among the thoughtless people of Michigan, a sentiment for the encouragement and protection of our birds.

"The Cooper Ornithological Club of California, sends greeting to the Michigan Club and wishes it every success. C. BARLOW, Secretary."

Mr. E. Van Winkle of Vanz Harbor, Mich., is located temporarily (next 3 months) at Peoria, Ill.

Mr. B. H. Swales, who has been ill at his home in Detroit for several weeks, has returned once more to the University of Michigan.

Prof. A. J. Cook writes from California: "I have just received a Condor measuring 9-4."

Mr. J. E. Dickinson, Rockford, Ill., secretary of the Wilson Ornithological Chapter of the A. A., has joined our Club. He is making a special study of the Mniotiltidae, and any who have notes upon species of this family of warblers should tender him their aid.

The Editor-in-chief called upon Messrs. Friedrich, Primrose, and Mills, of the Club, at Brooklyn, Tecumseh and Adrian, during the latter part of March.

Profs. Walter B. Barrows, Dean C. Worcester and Mr. L. Whitney Watkins, were appointed a committee of the Michigan Academy of Science, to look after means for the protection of the song birds in Michigan.

Mr. Elmer W. Durfee has returned West. He went to Arizona this time and took with him a good gun and a copy of Coues' "Key." During his stay in New Mexico, he was handicapped by not having a good reference book and a gun, but now that he has them, we may expect some good results from his work.

Mr. W. E. Snyder of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, expects to spend a couple of months collecting in Southern Illinois.

Mr. Lynn B. Gilmore, Blooming Valley, Penn., spends the summer in the oil fields of either Pennsylvania or New York. Wherever he is, he will keep an eye on the birds.



## The Birds of Neebish Island, St. Mary's River, Mich.

BY MAJ. A. H. BOIES.

**T**HIS list of the birds of Neebish Island is the result of observations made by me during the spring, summer and fall of 1892-94, while in the employ of the U. S. Government as an inspector on the St. Mary's River channel. I am under very great obligations to Assistant Engineer, Mr. Joseph Ripely, for favors shown me by very materially helping in the prosecution of this work, which otherwise could not have been carried out.

There are, no doubt, many birds which I have not listed that frequent the island; but it has been my desire to be as accurate as possible, and I have therefore noted only those species actually observed by myself, or given me from most reliable sources.

Neebish Island is located in the St. Mary's River about sixteen miles below Sault Ste. Marie, and is about nine miles in length, with a breadth of five miles at its widest point. It forms the southern boundary of Hay Lake, a part of whose water passes on the west side, and a part on the east; and is called the "West Neebish," and "Middle Neebish," *neebish* being the Chippewa for *rapids*.

The island is quite densely wooded with spruce and cedar, some pine, and occasional patches of maple and birch. There is considerable low, wet land in the southern part, covered with dense swamp-cedars, and along the borders are marshes of considerable extent where Snipe and water-fowl abound in great numbers in their season.

This island, which lies on the northern

boundary of the State of Michigan, as also of the United States, is but sparsely settled by squatters, half-breeds and Indians, who hunt and fish most of their time, getting out a few cedar posts and ties in the winter. They are, as a general thing, poorly clad, and make as poor a living.

[The first number is the serial number, the second, that of the Nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union.]

1-2. *Colymbus holboellii* (*Reinh.*). RED-NECKED GREBE. Observed about Mud Lake, on the east side of Neebish Island, in the summer of 1893. I did not discover any nests of this bird, nor see any young.

2-3. *C. auritus* *Linn.*

HORNED GREBE. I saw a number of this species, both in Mud Lake and Monosco Bay, on the west side of the island. Neither nests nor young were found.

3-6. *Podilymbus podiceps* (*Linn.*). PIED-BILLED GREBE. Quite common in all the waters adjacent to Neebish Island. I have no doubt that it nests in this locality, as it was noted in all the



summer months.

4-7. *Urinator imber* (*Gunn.*). LOON. Common from spring till late in the fall in all waters adjacent to the Island. I found no nests nor young birds, but no doubt it breeds in this locality, as Mr. Howard Johnson reported that he had found eggs at the west end of the Island, which, from his description, I think I am safe in pronouncing those of this species.

5-11. *U. lumme* (*Gunn.*). RED-THROATED LOON. This bird also is quite common in Mud Lake, Hay Lake and Monosco Bay, and appeared more plentiful than *imber*. No nests nor eggs were discovered.

6-50. *Rissa tridactyla* (*Linn.*).



KITTIWAKE. These birds were occasionally seen about Mud Lake in the fall of '93-'94.

7-51a. *Larus argentatus smithsonianus* Coues. AMERICAN HERRING GULL. Very common throughout the year. There are islands a few miles from Neebish, where this Gull breeds extensively.

8-54. *L. delawarensis* Ord. RING-BILLED GULL. One of the commonest of the Gulls. I have killed it on both our northern and southern boundary—from Michigan to Florida. It breeds quite extensively on islands to the east of Neebish.

9-58. *L. atricilla* Linn. BLACK-HEADED GULL. I observed a few of these birds in the spring of 1894, along the eastern shore of the Island, but could not get a shot at them. They appeared to be more shy than any of the other species which frequent these waters. I should not, however, call them a rare bird in this section, nor are they common.

10-60. *L. philadelphia* (Ord). BONAPARTE'S GULL. Common; breeds about the Island. I found perfectly fresh eggs in June, on a small island on the west side of Neebish.

11-70. *Sterna hirundo* Linn. COMMON TERN. Breeds quite plentifully in the vicinity of Neebish Island. I have found their nests, with fresh eggs, on Two-tree Island, Mud Lake and on Crescent Island on the west side of Neebish; and I am told upon good authority that they breed at the west end of the Island. I have taken their eggs in June.

12-120. *Phalacrocorax dilophus* (Sw. and Rich.). DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT. I saw but one bird of this species on the northern boundary of this state. September 26th I saw one flying by Sailor's Encampment late in the afternoon, and presume it stopped somewhere in Mud Lake. I think these birds can be called rare in this locality, as this was the only one I observed during my three seasons on the St. Mary's River.

13-125. *Pelecanus erythrorhynchus* Gmel. AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN. These birds may be considered rare in the vicinity of Neebish Island. I am reliably informed that one was killed near Detour, in the fall of 1894, and also one in Hay Lake, earlier in the same year. Both of these were mounted at Sault Ste. Marie, I believe.

14-129. *Merganser americanus* (Cass.). AMERICAN MERGANSER. Common in all waters surrounding the Island; breeds.

15-130. *M. serrator* (Linn.). RED-BREASTED MERGANSER. More plentiful than the preceding species; breeds quite commonly.

16-131. *Lophodytes cucullatus* (Linn.). HOODED MERGANSER. Abundant in spring and fall, a few breeding about the Island. Often called "Wood Ducks" by the natives of Neebish.

17-132. *Anas boschas* Linn. MALLARD. Abundant; breeds.

18-133. *A. obscura* Gmel. BLACK DUCK. Very common; breeds.

19-139. *A. carolinensis* Gmel. GREEN-WINGED TEAL. Common; breeds.

20-140. *A. discors* Linn. BLUE-WINGED TEAL. Common; breeds.

21-144. *Aix sponsa* (Linn.). WOOD DUCK. People on the Island tell me that they have found their nests and young, often during the summer, but I saw neither. There were plenty in the fall, however.

22-148. *Aythya marila nearctica* Stejn. AMERICAN SCAUP DUCK. Very common during spring and fall migrations.

23-150. *A. collaris* (Donov.). RING-NECKED DUCK. Not very common. I saw but a few at any time.

24-151. *Glaucionetta clangula americana* (Bonap.). AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE. Quite common in spring and fall; breeds about the Island.

25-153. *Charitonetta albeola* (Linn.). BUFFLE-HEAD; BUTTER-BALL. Abundant in spring and fall.

26-154. *Clangula hyemalis* (Linn.). OLD SQUAW. Only one specimen positively identified, although I believe they frequent this locality during spring and fall migrations.

27-166. *Oidemia perspicillata* (Linn.). SURF DUCK. Not common. The first one that I secured was killed by Mr. Leon Bellair, of the Bay City House, at the "Soo." He killed this one about the middle of October, in West Neebish, I think, or possibly Mud Lake, and on October 16th I skinned and mounted it. I saw only three others, at different times.

28-167. *Erismatura rubida* (Wils.). RUDDY DUCK. Common during migrations.



29-169a. *Chen hyperborea nivalis* (Forst.). GREATER SNOW GOOSE. Upon good authority, I place this species in the list as a frequenter of the waters of Hay Lake and Monosco Bay.

30-172. *Branta canadensis* (Linn.). CANADA GOOSE. Plenty of these birds were seen on Monosco Bay and Hay Lake, and I think they breed sparingly in that locality, as I saw old birds in mid-summer on Hay Lake.

31-180. *Olor columbianus* (Ord). WHISTLING SWAN. Occasional in the spring and fall.

32-181. *O. buccinator* (Rich.). TRUMPETER SWAN. More rare than *columbianus*, but occasional in spring and fall.

33-190. *Botaurus lentiginosus* (Montag.). AMERICAN BITTERN. Common throughout the Island. I found their nests in the long grass on the east side of the Island, near Winter Point Light House, about the middle of June, and up to the first of July I also saw plenty of these birds, both old and young, along Two-tree Creek, east side of Mud Lake.

34-194. *Ardea herodias* Linn. GREAT BLUE HERON. Common in this vicinity, and although I did not see the nests, I have no doubt that they breed upon many of the small islands and the mainland.

35-201. *A. virescens* Linn. GREEN HERON. I did not observe any of these birds on the Island, but in the summer of 1892 I saw one on one of the little islands in Little Rapids, at the head of Hay Lake. I think I can safely say that it frequents Neebish Island, although I do not call it a common bird by any means—should rather class it as a rare one.

36-202. *Nycticorax nycticorax naevius* (Bodd.). BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. This bird is reported as breeding on islands in the St. Mary's River, but I did not see one during my three seasons at the Island. It is reasonable to suppose, however, that the bird frequents Neebish Island if it be true that it breeds anywhere near the St. Mary's River.

37-206. *Grus mexicana* (Müll.). SANDHILL CRANE. Noted but two of these birds during my stay on the Island. They do not breed there, and are not common.

38-212. *Rallus virginianus* Linn. VIRGINIA RAIL. I saw a few of these birds on one of the small keys, or shoals, on the south-west side of Neebish Island during the summer of 1893, and presume they breed in the vicinity.

39-214. *Porzana carolina* (Linn.). SORA. A few of these birds breed about the marshy shores of the Island. I record one that I killed as late as the 9th of November, 1893.

40-228. *Philohela minor* (Gmel.). AMERICAN WOODCOCK. A party of "Soo" sportsmen came down to the Island in October, 1894, with the pleasure boat "Gladys." Among the party was Mr. Leon Bellair, Sheriff Hursley, and one or two others whose names I cannot recall, but who were familiar sportsmen, as well as great cribbage players. They stopped a few hours at the Island, while I made some photographs of the boat and game, which they had strung up in the rigging. One of the party told me that he saw a couple of Woodcock on the mainland opposite the Island, and carefully questioning him about the birds, I was satisfied that from his knowledge of the habits of the Woodcock, and his reputation as a sportsman that they were undoubtedly Woodcock; and although I did not see one, nor even signs of one, in the most favorable places, I feel justified in placing them in the list of birds that visit the Island.

41-230. *Gallinago delicata* (Ord). WILSON'S SNIPE. This is not the Jack Snipe, although it is commonly called so. There is a very great difference in the two birds, the Wilson's Snipe has the long bill, while the Jack, or Grass Snipe has a shorter bill, and is in every way an inferior bird. The Wilson's Snipe are very plentiful in the fall, and get exceedingly fat and well flavored. I have had most excellent shooting of these birds as late as November, on the east and south sides of the Island.

42-332. *Macrorhamphus scolopaceus* (Say). RED-BREASTED SNIPE. A few were observed in the spring, on the shores on the west side of the Island. No young nor nests were seen.

43-239. *Tringa maculata* Vieill. PECTORAL SANDPIPER; JACK SNIPE. Abundant along the shore in spring and fall, usually in flocks of from a half-



dozen to thirty or forty. They become very fat in the fall, often feeding on the same grounds with the Wilson's Snipe. They are excellent eating when well cooked.

44-242. *T. minutilla Vieill.* LEAST SANDPIPER. Common in spring and fall.

45-243a. *T. alpina pacifica (Coues).* RED-BACKED SANDPIPER. Frequently seen on the south and east shores of the Island in the fall.

46-248. *Calidris arenaria (Linn.).* SANDERLING. Observed on the east shore of the Island in the spring of 1893.

47-254. *Totanus melanoleucus (Gmel.).* GREATER YELLOW-LEGS. Common in spring and fall.

48-255. *T. flavipes (Gmel.).* YELLOW-LEGS. Also common in spring and fall. Found in the same localities as the larger species.

49-263. *Actitis macularia (Linn.).* SPOTTED SANDPIPER. Very common; breeds. I found a number of nests on Crescent Key, and also on Two-tree Island and Mud Lake.

50-272. *Charadrius dominicus Mill.* AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER. Quite common in pairs or small flocks, in spring and fall. An excellent table bird.

51-273. *Ægialitis vocifera (Linn.).* KILLDEER. A common bird along the shores and inland; breeds.

52-274. *Æ. semipalmata Bonap.* SEMIPALMATED PLOVER. A much smaller species. Two or three are usually seen together; never very common.

53-283. *Arenaria interpres (Linn.).* TURNSTONE. I killed a number of these birds in the fall of 1894, on the eastern shore of the Island; also saw them quite plentiful on Crescent Key, on the west side. I found them very agreeable eating, as they were very fat.

54-298. *Dendragapus canadensis (Linn.).* CANADA GROUSE. The first of these birds that I secured was in October, 1894, which I shot near the interior of the Island. It was a male in excellent plumage. I mounted it in good form, and it is now one of my finest specimens. There are a few on the Island, but I do not call them common by any means. On the mainland on both sides of the St. Mary's River they are reported as very common, and many of them are annually killed for the market.

55-300. *Bonasa umbellus (Linn.).* RUFFED GROUSE. Very common throughout the Island.

56-315. *Ectopistes migratorius (Linn.).* WILD PIGEON. Engineer Balch, of the U. S. Survey, reported to me that he saw one on the mainland opposite the Island, in October, 1894.

57-316. *Zenaidura macroura (Linn.).* MOURNING DOVE. Occasionally seen in the summer. No nests were found, but I presume it breeds sparingly.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Mr. Norman A. Wood records the capture of a Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo Swainsonis*) by himself, in Cheboygan Co., Mich., in Oct. 1883.—"The Auk," April, 1897.

Mr. James B. Purdy of Plymouth, Mich., also gives, in April, "The Auk," a very interesting account of the taking of a nest of Henslow's Bunting (*Ammodramus benslowi*) on July 27, 1893. The bird was secured to make certain the identification, and presented to the United States National Museum (accession No. 30409).

Mr. Gerard Abbott of Hillsdale, has an interesting note on the Least Bittern in "The Nidologist" for April.

### To Good To Keep.

Brother Members,

I have something which is too good to keep, to tell you, (that is if our Editor-in-Chief, does not get hold of it.) The fact is that our Editor-in-Chief, drove to my home for the express purpose of robbing a Great Horned Owl's nest which I had previously located, and as he arrived rather late in the afternoon we made all possible haste for the forest, and before getting to our tree had to wade or jump, or both, several swampy streams and pools. Coupled with this there were ominous flashes of lightning and heavy peals of thunder and it began to rain, all of which rather unnerved our Chief. We arrived at the tree, which was three feet through and forty feet to a limb, and as (we all knew) defeat would break his heart, he at once began the climb, but as I said, his grit was oozing—Mrs. Owl was *surely* trembling in her claws. He kept going up until he was about fifteen feet from the ground, when casting one eye to the threatening west, 'mid the gathering gloom and rushing water, grit, grip and all were gone and he *dropped*. The shock must have been great. He did not say anything, nor I either, but I guess he does not like bark very well, as he was spitting out great chunks of it which he had bitten out in coming down. Those Owl's eggs are still in a state of incubation and Mrs. Owl is trembling no more.

GEO. J. FRIEDRICH.

Hazel Valley Farm, Brooklyn.

What a calamity it is to be in charge of a paper which belongs to its patrons and not to its editor. BUT—No one twitted me on that occasion of being "up a stump."—ED.



# BULLETIN OF THE Michigan Ornithological Club.

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Articles for publication should be sent to one of the editors.

All advertisements, subscriptions, or business communications should be sent to the Managing Editors.

Author's separates can be furnished at a very reasonable rate if application is made when the article is sent.

We are pleased to present to you the second issue of our official publication in behalf of the birds, with hearty springtime greetings in whistle, song and chirrup from the birds themselves. We greet through them their friends, for such are also ours.

From the universal encouragement and letters of praise from scores of our members for Bulletin No 1, we are led to believe that our efforts in behalf of this publication have not been entirely in vain and the many annoyances and difficulties, born of inexperience and caused by a scattered editorial board, are cheerfully met in our determination to make this venture of the Michigan Ornithological Club a success.

The Michigan Academy of Science held its third annual meeting in Ann Arbor on March 31st, April 1st and 2nd. This enthusiastic association of workers is doing active work in nearly all the departments of scientific research and has undertaken a biological survey of the State. In this work every member of the Michigan Ornithological Club should give all possible aid, and we would advise that as many of our members as possible become members of the

Section of Zoology. Prof. Barrows is secretary of the Academy; enquire of him. Many of our best workers are now members.

Did you ever chance to notice that it is not the farmer, who is most concerned, who makes the motion, at the annual town-meeting, to have the bounty of fifteen or twenty-five cents placed upon the heads of hawks and owls? Nine times out of ten it is the village loafer and pot hunter or some shiftless, worthless individual who is the author of this motion, carried by this same class, and the farmers who *do not care* because — they do not know better.

And their good friends among the birds of prey suffer at their expense and to their loss. It is doubtful if we have a native bird of any species, which we could not afford to keep even if wardens had to be paid to protect it.

We are pleased to present to our readers, in this issue, a cut of Dr. Elliot Coues of Washington, D. C.

Dr. Coues is known to all through the invaluable teachings, which serve as an inspiration to beginners, in his Key to North American birds. We are pleased also to note that he has associated himself with the editor of "The Osprey" in the publication of one of the prettiest and most practical ornithological journals which America has yet seen. It has deserved success.

Two very amusing opinions have come to our notice since last going to press. 1st. That the Michigan Ornithological Club was organized to run out the Michigan Academy of Science—this from a man of science. 2nd. From a brother editor who says he cannot possible see how the Michigan Ornithological Club can get money enough to publish a paper.

The first statement is too amazingly absurd and childish to call for any further notice or space from us.

In answer to the second: It is, Mr. Editor, a case of *we publish our paper with our own money* and we are in no way engaged in a financial venture. The Bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club wishes the editor in question all success.

"The Story of the Farallones", by C. Barlow and H. R. Taylor, is out and is replete with illustrations of that rocky breeding place of thousands of sea birds.

It is published by "The Nidologist", and is for sale by them at fifty cents.

"Birds", the new publication of Chicago, is now added to our exchange list and will be gladly welcomed by our members with the many others in our Club Library. It is beautiful with its colored pictures of our native birds, and will serve as an able



missionary in its field of awakening a love for the study of birds among the youth and children, and among others as well. We wish it all success.

Published by the Nature Publishing Company, 277 Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.

Chief Simon Pokagon, honorary member of our Club and a life-long student of birds, sends, "To the Michigan Ornithological Club", through this issue of our official medium, an article accompanied by a picture of the "Grand Old Man" of his race. You will read it with pleasure, and may its pathetic teaching enlist you one and all in the lovable cause of protecting our native birds of wood and field from death. We trust it will.

This eloquent leader of the Pokagon band of Pottawatamie Indians has written and had published upon birch bark, the paper of the wild woods, his life-time's wonted home, a dainty booklet, "The Red Man's Greeting." This, by the way, can be obtained by sending only 50 cents to C. H. Engle, Hartford, Mich. Every member of the Club and all our readers should have this gem of wild, rough imagery.

Mr. Wm. Dutcher, treasurer of the A. O. U. and chairman of its committee on bird protection, writes gratefully of our stand taken in the good work.

Now that the birds are here again let us use our influence to that end, and personally see what we can accomplish among the thoughtless destroyers near our own homes.

The Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society, through its secretary, Geo. H. Greene of Lansing, has very courteously offered its rooms in the State Capitol to the Michigan Ornithological Club for its next annual meeting, to be held in Lansing, probably on December 3, 1897.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science is coming to Michigan this year, and all members of the Club should make their plans to attend. It will hold its next annual meeting in Detroit, on August 9—15, 1897.

Professor F. W. Putman, of Harvard University, General Secretary of the A. A. A. S., lectured under the auspices of the Detroit Archaeological Society, on April 8th, on American Archaeology.

The Nidologist notices the Bulletin of the M. O. C. very kindly in issue of March.

Bulletin No. 1 of the Oologists' Association, under date of March 15th, is at hand. It contains lists of officers and members, also constitution.

From the date of the publication of this Bulletin subscriptions cannot begin with Volume I Number 1 unless ten cents is added to the regular subscription price. The edition of this number is nearly exhausted, but as long as they last the price will be twenty-five cents each. We wish to state that but few extra copies of our Bulletin are printed and persons wishing complete files will do well to subscribe at once.

The Treasurer informs us that there are quite a few unpaid dues. We would urge that these be paid as soon as possible, as the money is needed for enlarging the paper. The Treasurer's address is: Mrs. F. A. Kelsey, 140 Woodward Ave., Detroit, Michigan.

## Field Meeting at GRAND RAPIDS, JULY 8 AND 9.

A field meeting of the Michigan Ornithological Club will be held at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on July 8 and 9.

The afternoons and evenings will be devoted to the reading of papers, and Friday forenoon will be spent in the field.

Interesting programs are being prepared, and it is the desire of the Club to have every Michigan ornithologist (and every ornithologist outside of Michigan who can come) present.

All persons notifying any of the committee mentioned below, before July 4th, of his intention of being present, will be furnished entertainment by the Grand Rapids members.

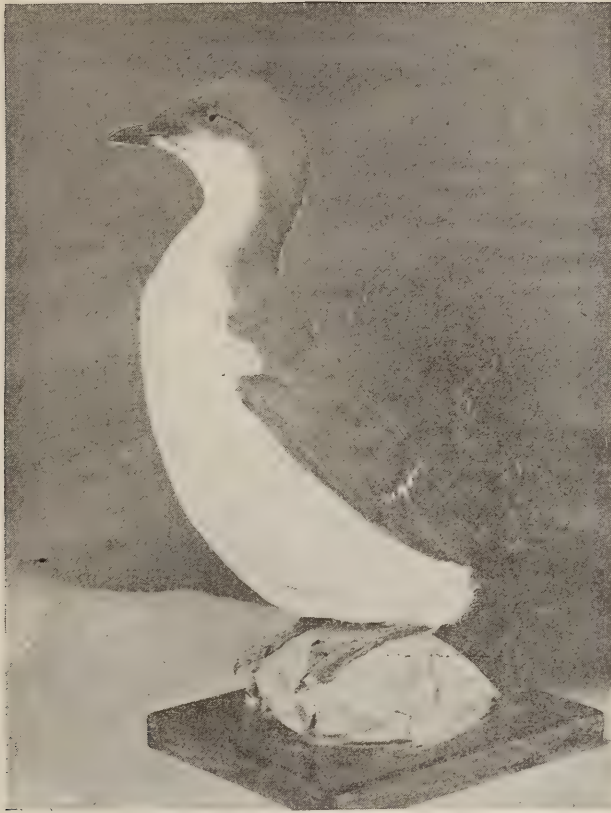
It is also the wish of the Club to have as many participate in the program, as possible, and all persons intending to do so should send the name of the paper, the time it will occupy, and the time they wish to read it (if they have a preference), to the committee as early as possible, and **not later than June 18th**. Copies of the programme will be mailed about June 20.

MORRIS GIBBS,  
MRS. F. A. KELSEY,  
L. J. COLE,  
B. R. LORAWAY,  
W. E. MULLIKEN,

Address, 191 First Ave.,  
or 27 Lake St.,  
Grand Rapids, Mich. Committee.

In accordance with the rule governing the distribution of this Bulletin, after this issue the paper will be sent only to members not in arrears for dues.





Brännick's Murre, *Uria lomvia* (Linn.).

Picked up in a dying condition on Flat River, near Greenville, Michigan, by Mr. Percy Selous.  
See *Auk*, Vol. XII, No. 4, page 337.  
Photo from mounted specimen by T. L. Hankinson.

### GENERAL NOTES.

Editor of Bulletin :

Dear Sir:—Allow me to add another instance of the capture of *Uria troile* to the one given in your January issue. This one is still more remarkable for the reason that it occurred on Lake Erie.

December 18, 1896, a Murre, *Uria troile*, was taken on Lake Erie, several miles out from Mentor. Two were seen, but only one taken. The specimen is in the possession of Mr. Henry F. Lapham, Painesville, Ohio. Does anyone know of another instance of this bird being observed on Lake Erie?

J. M. KECK.

Mentor, O., March 3, 1897.

The above specimen has been purchased by Oberlin College Museum, and found by Lynds Jones, curator, to be an immature specimen of *Uria lomvia*, Brännick's Murre. (See Bulletin No. 13, Wilson Ornithological Chapter, Agassiz Association.)

### *Uria lomvia* Again.

In a letter received from Mr. A. Kay, Port Sydney, Muskoka, Ontario, he reports collecting, Dec. 18, 1896, a specimen of *Uria lomvia*, in a dying condition,

the only one he has ever seen in that part of the country, where he has collected for twelve or fifteen years. I secured one that was shot in the Detroit river, just below Detroit, on Dec. 19, 1896. I also know of another one being shot on the same date about eight miles below Detroit, which is now in the possession of a Frenchman who lives near where it was shot. The Detroit river specimens are probably part of the flock observed near Gibraltar, Mich., and reported in the Bulletin of January. I cannot account for the Port Sydney specimen, as there are no large lakes or rivers near there.

Have any others been observed?

It would be interesting to trace these rare visitors, if we could.

W. P. MELVILLE.

Windsor, Ont.

P. S. I do not notice any change in the numbers of the English Sparrow, *P. domesticatus*, in this locality, in the five years I have been here.—M.

I write to have you make a correction in your April Bulletin. The name of the gentleman who sent the bird is Mr. John Bortle of River Rouge, and the bird is *Uria lomvia* instead of *U. troile*. I had no others to compare it with, and really, the only difference is a slight one in regard to length of bill.

We have finished cataloguing the birds in the Museum and find we have 3,675 skins, 1,525 mounted birds, or a total of 5,200. Our next work is to label and catalogue the mammals.

NORMAN A. WOOD.

University of Michigan Museum.

January 9, 1897, Messrs. Cole, Durfee, and myself took a Song Sparrow at Grand Rapids. It was in a flock of Tree Sparrows and apparently in good health. Rather unusual.

W. EARLE MULLIKEN.

I took a Song Sparrow on Jan. 17, 1894, at the outlet from Watkins Lake. It was hiding among the rushes—was very fat and exceeding shy.—L. W. W.

### The American Goshawk in Jackson Co.

Mr. Harvey H. Raby of Norvell, killed a fine adult specimen of the Am. Goshawk,



*Accipiter atricapillus*, in January of this year. It had boldly attacked a fowl in his farm-yard and was easily secured. The bird was mounted by E. G. Kief of Manchester, and has lately been delivered to the lucky owner.

This species is a very rare straggler with us and is always a good find.

L. WHITNEY WATKINS.

Manchester, Mich.

### The Birds in Cold Weather.

Bluebirds and Robins stayed here all winter. Even during the most severe cold spell. So they did in the winter of 1894-95. Not a day passed but that I saw one or two Bluebirds. On the coldest day of this year, Jan. 26th, while coming back from a funeral, some 24 miles from here, I saw at 4 P. M., in a cold of 15° below zero, a Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) on a large elm, apparently in very good humor.

### Is the English Sparrow Becoming Less Common?

The English Sparrow is decidedly decreasing in numbers in this vicinity. People around here have declared war against them. I, alone, killed 117 nestlings, 12 ♀ ad., 26 ♂ ad., and destroyed 47 eggs during the year 1896. This may have helped a little. The consequences can be seen this year, viz., there are more Bluebirds, Wrens, and Chipping Sparrows around the dwellings than ever.

W. F. HENNINGER.

South Webster, O.

### Large Sets of Red-Shouldered Hawk.

While records of five eggs to a clutch are unusual in *Buteo lineatus*, I have another record of five, taken Apr. 25, by E. Schrage, while he and I were collecting at Birmingham. He informed me that he had taken one set previous to this.

I have made careful research and have concluded that the *Uria* recorded in Vol. I, No. 1. of M. O. C. Bulletin is *U. lomvia*. The curvature in the lower mandible shows this conclusively.

W. A. DAVIDSON.

Detroit, Mich.

[R. R. Newton took a set of five of the Red-shouldered Hawk at Grand Rapids, April 14, this spring.]

### Nesting of Turkey Vulture.

Several years ago two "strange" young birds were found beside a log in a piece of timber near the Village of Britton, Lenawee Co. They were brought into town and taken to the Exelby Hotel and cared for. One of them did not thrive under the treatment, and soon after died. But the other one took kindly to the food furnished and developed into a large male Turkey Vulture. He was a resident of the village for about two years, and I think was killed by a dog. This bird is not a common breeder in Michigan or I would not have brought this to mention.

M. B. MILLS.

Adrian, Mich.

### A Belated Meadow Lark.

November 15th, 1896, I saw the last *Sturnella magna* in an open grove in the Fair Grounds. It was a plump, healthy individual, and rather tame.

January 24th, 1897, while going through the woods in the same locality, a Meadow Lark flew out from *under* the snow and attempted to alight in a small oak near at hand. Evidently unable to use its feet, it fluttered through the twigs to the ground. On my starting towards it, it again flew up and made the same attempt, finally disappearing among the trees. It was very weak and its feet were helpless, probably being frozen. The thermometer was fifteen degrees below zero, and it had crept into the snow in order to escape the biting cold. The wind was blowing a gale from the west and had drifted the snow badly.

Could this have been the bird I noticed in November?

Don't the Meadow Lark ever winter in this vicinity from choice? It is the first occurrence I have ever noticed.

GEO. H. WALKER.

Belvidere, Ill.

[A Meadow Lark was seen during January and February, 1893, and probably wintered here. The last one for 1896 was observed on December 16th.

These records are for Norvell, Jackson Co., Mich.—Ed.]



### Notes on Prairie Horned Lark.

On March 13, '96, an egg of the Prairie Horned Lark was brought to me, it having been found in the snow with the bird sitting upon it. This was so out of order that I went to the field and saw for myself the place where it had been found, which was a slight depression in the snow.

I account for it in this way: This pair of Larks had taken advantage of the warm weather which we had been having and had built a home behind a sod for shelter. On the 11th and 12th a light snow fell, covering everything. The old bird was driven from her nest which soon filled with snow, and when the storm subsided she was compelled to make a nest in the snow. When warm weather came again, the first nest was found with two broken eggs.

This bird has been very abundant here this spring. Numerous flocks of from 50 to 60 were seen between Feb. 24th and Mar. 1st. I do not remember of ever seeing a flock this large before.

D. J. LEWIS.

Ganges, Mich., Mar. 24, 1897.

### The Evening Grosbeak Again.

Yesterday, March 21st, there was quite a large flock of Evening Grosbeaks, in company with many Pine Grosbeaks in the trees near my home. They are the first I have seen in five years.

March 24th. I shot two fine specimens of the Evening Grosbeak this morning, and another ♂ in fine plumage was brought me. I do not know whether this is of sufficient importance for you to notice. These birds have been around since Sunday (21st) as well as some Pine Grosbeaks.

PERCY SELOUS.

Greenville, Mich.

### RECORD OF MEETINGS.

Mar. 12, 1897. In the absence of the President, Mr. Mulliken was appointed chairman. After the reports of the Treasurer and Librarian, names were proposed for membership and elected (See list below). The Migration Committee reported that it had extended its work into the states immediately surrounding Michigan. The following rule was presented by the Librarian, and accepted by the Club:

Library Rules, Section 7a. Books may be retained by editors of the *Bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club* for three months, not subject to renewal.

Resolutions on the death of Maj. Charles E. Bendire, drawn up by Mr. J. B. Purdy, and read by the Secretary, were accepted by the Club. Dr. Morris Gibbs, Mrs. E. O. Kelsey and B. R. Laraway were appointed a committee to look up the advisability of holding a Field Meeting this summer.

April 16, 1897. Meeting called to order by the President. The Librarian reported the receipt of Bulletin No. 13 of the Wils. Ornith. Chap., A. A., and Vol. I, No. 2, "Current Thoughts." This was followed by the election of new members. The Collection Committee reported the following: From Mr. Percy Selous, Greenville, 1 ♀ Great Horned Owl, 1 ♂ and 1 ♀ Evening Grosbeak, and 1 ♂ Pine Grosbeak—all mounted. From Mr. Chas. L. Cass, Hillsdale, 1 set of 2, and 7 singles of Caspian Tern. It was moved "that a Field Meeting be held in Grand Rapids on Thursday and Friday, June 10 and 11, and that the same committee be continued, with two additional members from Grand Rapids, to plan and manage the meeting, and to provide for the entertainment of visiting members." The motion was carried, and W. E. Mulliken and L. J. Cole were appointed to act on the committee. The following papers were then read and discussed: The first, "To the Michigan Ornithological Club," by Chief Simon Pokagon, was read by Mr. Cole; the second was entitled, "Protective Coloration of Birds' Eggs," and was read by the author, Mr. B. R. Laraway; and the last, "Bitterns," was by Mr. Claude H. Barlow, of Greenville.

May 3, 1897. Special meeting, called by President. The words "June 10 and 11" in the motion to provide for a Field Meeting, were changed to "July 8 and 9." After the election of two new members, some "notes on the family Mniotiltidae in Monroe County, Mich.," kindly loaned by Dr. Gibbs, were read and discussed.

May 14, 1897. After the reading of the minutes and the various reports, the Librarian reported the following:

Received from the Michigan Board of Agriculture, Reports for the years '57, '65, '66, '68-'72, '78-'92, and '95. From the



publishers, "Gameland" for May, '97, and the "Story of the Farallones."

It was proposed as an amendment to the Constitution that the word "May" in Art. VIII, Sec. 1, be changed to "August." (All active members wishing to vote on this amendment should send their proxy to the Secretary before June 11.)

Mr. Newton read an article entitled, "Notes on Some of Our Swamp Birds." He spoke especially of Red-winged Blackbirds, Long-billed Marsh Wrens, Yellow Warblers, and American and Least Bitterns.

### List of Members

Elected since the publishing of Bulletin No. 1.

#### ACTIVE.

Date of Election.

Eddy, N. A., Bay City.....	Mar. 12.
Fox, Miss Frances Margaret, Bay City.....	May 3.
Harris, John W., Ann Arbor.....	Apr. 16.
Morrill, W. P., Ann Arbor.....	Apr. 16.
Oldfield, W. A., Port Sanilac.....	Mar. 12.
Trombley, Jerome, Petersburg.....	Apr. 16.
Van Winkle, Edmund, Peoria, Ill.....	Mar. 12.

#### ASSOCIATE.

Abbott, Gerard, Hillsdale.....	Apr. 16.
Bailey, Dr. G. H., Hillsdale.....	Mar. 12.
Dickenson, J. E., Rockford, Ill.....	Apr. 16.
Gow, Alexander, Windsor, Ont.....	Mar. 12.
Groh, Miss Amber, Trenton.....	May 14.
Henninger, Rev. W. F., South Webster, O.....	Mar. 12.
Higgins, Miss Clara A., Detroit.....	Mar. 12.
Johnson, Walter A., Galesburg, Ill.....	Mar. 12.
Law, J. E., Madison, Wis.....	Apr. 16.
Lewis, Harry, Lansing.....	Apr. 16.
Longyear, B. O., Agricultural College.....	Mar. 12.
Melville, W. P., Windsor, Ont.....	Mar. 12.
Oakley, D. W. J., Detroit.....	Apr. 16.
Peterson, Eryl S., Brooklyn.....	Mar. 12.
Primrose, John H., Tecumseh.....	Apr. 16.
Seely, D. A., Agricultural College.....	Mar. 12.
Van Pelt, A. W., Muskegon.....	Mar. 12.
Yorke, F. Henry, M. D., Foosland, Ill.....	May 3.

LEON J. COLE, Secretary.

Chief Pokagon will have an article in the May *Osprey*, on the great flocks of Chimney Swifts seen by him many years ago, when a boy in the Michigan forests.

Mr. Walter A. Johnson, Galesburg, Ill., editor of *The Osprey*, writes, "I do not believe that the Bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club will hurt the financial side of 'The Osprey,' and I am sure it will help the ornithological side of 'The Osprey's editor.'" Mr. Johnson has joined the Club and offers to help us in anyway possible.

Messrs. Osborn and Mills, of the migration committee, met at the Michigan Club Banquet, in Detroit, and had a pleasant chat.

### Walter B. Barrows.

We were favored in our first Bulletin, with an excellent half-tone of Walter B. Barrows, Professor of Zoology and Physiology in the Michigan Agricultural College, and also State Zoologist. Thinking it will be of interest, we will give a few facts regarding his life.

Prof. Barrows was born at Grantville, Mass., on January 10th, 1855. He received his education at the public schools of Reading, Mass., and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. From the latter place he graduated in 1876. Immediately after graduating he became assistant in Ward's Natural Science Establishment at Rochester, N. Y. In 1879 he sailed to Argentine Republic and became Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Physics at the the National College at Concepcion. During his second year's vacation, he served as Geologist on an exploring expedition to the Pampan Sierras.

On returning to the United States, he at once became Instructor in Science at Westfield, Mass.

This position he soon resigned to accept one as Instructor in Biology at the Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn. Here he remained until 1886. During 1885 and 1886, he also acted as Instructor in Botany at Trinity College, Hartford, Conn. Having been appointed Assistant Ornithologist of the U. S. Dep't. of Agriculture, he went to Washington in 1886. He fulfilled the duties of this office for about eight years, when he resigned to accept his present position at the Michigan Agricultural College.

Prof. Barrows' career as a scientist has been that of one of our best investigators. He has worked in many fields of science, but his great work has been in the lines of zoology and geology. The study of birds has always been his favorite pursuit. As early as 1876, he wrote an article regarding the classification of the Alcidae (Auk family). He published his *Birds of the Lower Uruguay* as a serial of four articles, two of which appeared in the *Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club*, and the other two in the first issues of the *Auk*. He also wrote a hundred pages of the *Standard Natural History*, on the birds of prey.

Perhaps he is best known by his work on the *English Sparrow* and by the one on the *American Crow*. These appeared as bulletins of the Division of Ornithology and Mammology from the Department of Agriculture at Washington. Prof. Barrows is a member of many of our leading scientific associations. He is an active member of the American Ornithologists, Union, and has recently been elected to the Zoological Society of France. He was one of the original members of the Nuttall Ornithological Club.

T. L. H.



## Migration Reports for 1896.

Those whose reports were received during 1896 by the Committee on Bird Migration are: N. A. Wood, T. L. Hankinson, L. C. Read, Jr., H. F. Jones, C. V. Hay, L. J. Cole, A. W. Van Pelt, Percy Selous, B. O. Longyear, L. B. Hunt, J. B. Purdy, C. M. Ayres, M. B. Mills, E. O. Kelsey, Morris Gibbs, W. J. Stoddard, A. H. Stockman, D. J. Douglass, Frank Allis, S. W. Harris, O. L. Ayres, Gottlieb Bessmer, L. W. Watkins, W. E. Mulliken, Lynds Jones, G. H. Walker, H. V. Ogden, H. B. Haskell, W. P. Melville, R. J. Coryell, R. W. Hegner, W. E. Saunders, F. M. Comstock, J. B. Lewis, E. L. Mosely, J. C. Gallaway, W. F. Henninger, J. M. Keck, G. W. Gunn, George Harbron, W. H. McNain, A. L. Treadwell, T. E. Haughey, E. F. Cranz, L. B. Gilmore, Thos. Mikesell, J. W. Suliot, A. W. Butler, Alexander Gow, G. A. MacCallum, G. R. Prescott, J. W. C. Johnson.

While from the great number of schedule blanks sent out in behalf of this work this is not a very large list of reporters, there is very good excuse in the fact that the committee were very much hindered in getting schedules to the various reporters in time to admit of the best work. The work was a new one to most of our observers and many were not located at all by those in charge. We hope and trust that every one of those schedules will be returned next July, together with the great number sent out by the committee this year. If any are overlooked, kindly inform us at once and it will give us pleasure to rectify the oversight.

A few interesting items, which will appear from time to time in this journal, may be of interest until a more comprehensive report can be made out.

1st. The Bluebirds, which were exceedingly rare in the spring of '96, increased wonderfully during the summer of that year and departed in some numbers. The probable cause of the great loss in their numbers, seemed to be thought, by the majority of ornithologists, to be from the extreme cold wave which penetrated even into Florida and to the Gulf of Mexico, destroying orange trees and various tropical plants where frost had scarcely, if ever, been known before. This caused, from starvation and exposure, the death of thousands upon thousands of individuals of our insectivorous species. Perhaps one reason why the Bluebirds suffered more than did the Swallows, etc. (which, by the way, were also greatly thinned in numbers) lay in the fact that the former care little for cold weather, if they can procure food, and they carelessly allowed themselves to be caught with no southern line of warmth to which to escape in time for food, while, at the first approach of cold, the less hardy species "flew." Bluebirds, we are glad to report, are in goodly numbers this spring.

2nd. Henslow's Sparrow is by no means so rare a species as supposed, but is scattered in small colonies sparsely over at least the three lower tiers of counties in Michigan. Look for them in the wild, open marshes.

3rd. The Black-throated Bunting is surely becoming more and more common as this State approaches in surface conditions more nearly to their former prairie habitat and they are four counties up from the southern line of the State now, perhaps farther. Look out for them this season.

4th. The Prairie Chickens and Wild Pigeons are still to be found in Michigan and are increasing in numbers, slowly 'tis true, but surely. Try to protect them if the opportunity offers.

5th. Robins, Meadowlarks, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Song Sparrows and Cardinal Grosbeaks were found in Michigan during the last winter—the three first all winter. What other species?

6th. The Turkey Vulture is becoming more common each year in our State. WHEN DO THEY COME? Where do they stay? Do they breed? You probably are not sure that they do or do not nest near your station, except that you know that nests have been found in Lenawee and Allegan Counties. See if you can find one. It would be a splendid record.

Just enter into this work as a Club and what interesting notes we will have at our annual meeting in Lansing next December!

L. WHITNEY WATKINS, Chairman.  
W. EARLE MULLIKEN,  
CHASE S. OSBORN,  
MARK B. MILLS,  
THOS. L. HANKINSON,  
Committee on Bird Migration,  
Michigan Ornithological Club.

Dr. Wolcott has kindly remembered the Editor-in-Chief with a copy of "Nebraska Birds," and Mr. Hankinson with a photograph of the specimen of Brännick's Murre, which was presented to the Agricultural College by Mr. Percy Selous of Greenville.

Mr. Hankinson writes from the Agricultural College, "I spent Saturday (May 15) in Chandler's Marsh. I found two sets of Marsh Hawk, one of six and an incomplete set of three. My best finds were a nest of the Coot and of the Prairie Chicken, each containing an egg."

Dr. Gibbs sends us word that Mr. E. Arnold of Battle Creek, took 2-2 Bald Eagle this spring, one set being taken from a *deau tree*.

Messrs. Mulliken and Cole spent April 23-4 at Ottawa Beach. A male Belted Piping Plover was taken a short distance from where a female was secured last year. Has anyone another record of the occurrence of this sub-species in our State?

Has anyone a record of the occurrence of *Uria troile* in the State?

The Editor-in-Chief spent a pleasant day with Mr. Hankinson at the Agricultural College recently.

From W. E. Mulliken, Grand Rapids: "When I found a Red-eyed Vireo's nest contain four Cowbird's eggs I thought I had reached the limit, but the other day I found a Towhee's nest containing nine eggs, two of their own and seven Cowbird's."

Have you any duplicate sets or skins you would like to donate to the Club collections?

The "Birds of Colorado," by W. W. Cooke, comes to hand just as we go to press. It, in company with several other new books, will receive mention in our next issue.





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# THE OSPREY



Is an established popular monthly which has taken the HIGHEST PLACE in its field. It has UNEQUALED opportunities for securing valuable and interesting contributions, through its close relations with most of the leading ornithologists, and all of the active field naturalists, of America. All enjoy the fine photographic illustrations, printed on fine enamel-coated paper. The publisher will continue to endeavor to make THE OSPREY indispensable to the class it represents. An invaluable feature for a number of the issues, completing the present volume, will be a series of FULL PAGE PLATES reproduced from paintings by Louis Agassiz Fuertes. No ornithologist can afford to miss these pictures by America's greatest bird-painter, nor, by the way, can one afford to miss THE OSPREY.

**Remember, The Osprey** offers a closer acquaintance with Dr. Coues, whose name is honored by every ornithologist.

## From a daughter of the great Audubon:

It is a beautiful magazine and we all enjoy it very much, it is delightful for those who, like ourselves, love the birds yet are not ornithologists (though I suppose we ought to be). After our immediate family have read and admired it, I lend it to our village library, where it is eagerly sought for, and I hope will interest our boys and young men sufficiently to induce them to protect rather than destroy the birds; even those who do not care so much for natural history, are attracted by the beautiful pictures. With every wish for the success of so attractive a publication, I am,

Very truly yours, M. R. AUDUBON.

"It improves with every number. It certainly eclipses anything of its kind published."—Leon J. Cole, Grand Rapids, Mich.

"The magazine waxes greater in beauty and strength as it grows in age."—Chas. S. Reid, Walhalla, S. C.

"Your magazine is growing better every month."—W. Otto Emerson, Haywards, Cal.

"THE OSPREY is bound to take the front rank among our ornithological magazines."—Floyd T. Coon, Milton, Wis.

"I must say it is the best paper of its kind I have ever seen for the money."—Gottlieb Bessmer, Hastings, Mich.

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Vol. 1. No. 3-4.

JULY-DEC., 1897.

MICHIGAN  
ORNITHOLOGICAL  
CLUB.

BULLETIN

OF THE

Michigan Ornithological Club.



Published in the interests of Ornithology in Michigan.

Grand Rapids, Michigan.

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RING PLOVER.  
Life size

From "BIRDS," July, 1897.—Nature Study Publishing Co.,  
Chicago.



# BULLETIN

OF THE

## Michigan Ornithological Club.

Vol. 1, No. 3-4. GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., JULY-DECEMBER. 1897. 50 cts. per year.

### The Birds of Neebish Island, St. Mary's River, Mich.—Concluded.

BY MAJ. A. H. BOIES.

58-331. *Circus hudsonius* (Linn.). MARSH HAWK. Common; frequently seen sailing over the fields and marshes in search of mice, frogs, and snakes.

59-332. *Accipiter velox* (Wils.). SHARP-SHINNED HAWK. One of the most common hawks on the Island; the smallest as well as the most daring.

60-333. *A. cooperi* (Bonap.). COOPER'S HAWK. A common species.

61-334. *A. atricapillus* (Wils.). AMERICAN GOSHAWK. But a single specimen was seen.

62-337. *Buteo borealis* (Gmel.). RED-TAILED HAWK. A common bird. A fine specimen, in the dark phase, was brought to me to be mounted, in October, 1894.

63-342. *B. swainsoni* Bonap. SWAINSON'S HAWK. Not very common; a fine specimen was taken in October.

64-343. *B. latissimus* (Wils.). BROAD-WINGED HAWK. Quite common; probably breeds.

65-347a. *Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis* (Gmel.). AMERICAN ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK. I saw a few of these birds pass the Island on their southern migration; they nest farther north.

66-352. *Haliaetus leucocephalus* (Linn.). BALD EAGLE. Frequently seen; doubtlessly breeding about the Island.

67-357. *Falco columbarius* Linn. PIGEON HAWK. Often observed and no doubt breeds.

68-360. *F. sparverius* Linn. AMERICAN SPARROW HAWK. A common species; breeds. Some young, that were picked up on the Island, were brought to me in the summer of 1893.

69-364. *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis* (Gmel.). AMERICAN OSPREY. Common; nests occasionally found.

70-368. *Syrnium nebulosum* (Forst.). BARRED OWL. A few of these birds were seen on the Island and they probably breed there.

71-370. *Scotiaptex cinerea* (Gmel.). GREAT GRAY OWL. Occasionally seen on the Island; breeds in Arctic America.

72-373. *Megascops asio* (Linn.). SCREECH OWL. Quite common; breeds.

73-375. *Bubo virginianus* (Gmel.). GREAT HORNED OWL. Common and breeds. Much darker than those of the southern part of the state, which is owing, no doubt, to their frequenting a more densely wooded country.

74-376. *Nyctea nyctea* (Linn.). SNOWY OWL. Frequently seen on the Island in winter.

75-377a. *Surnia ulula caparoch* (Mull.). AMERICAN HAWK OWL. I procured a fine specimen about the first of November, 1894, from a boy who said he killed it in the interior of the Island.

76-388. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (Wils.). BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO. A number of these birds were heard during the summer of 1894, and occasionally one was seen.

77-390. *Ceryle alcyon* (Linn.). BELTED KINGFISHER. Very common on the Island; breeds in suitable localities.

78-393. *Dryobates villosus* (Linn.). HAIRY WOODPECKER. Common resident; breeds.

79-394. *D. pubescens* (Linn.). DOWNY WOODPECKER. Common; breeds.

80-400. *Picoides articus* (Swains.). ARCTIC THREE-TOED WOODPECKER. I procured some beautiful specimens of this bird in the fall of 1893 and presume it is a common resident on the Island.

81-405. *Ceophlæus pileatus* (Linn.). PILEATED WOODPECKER. Common; breeds.

82-409. *Melanerpes carolinus* (Linn.). RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER. Occasionally seen; undoubtedly breeds.



83-412. *Colaptes auratus* (Linn.).  
FLICKER. The most common woodpecker;  
breeds abundantly.

84-417. *Antrostomus vociferus* (Wils.).  
WHIP-POOR-WILL. Undoubtedly breeds,  
being heard in July; a rare bird here.

85-420. *Chordeiles virginianus*  
(Gmel.). NIGHTHAWK. Very common;  
breeds.

86-423. *Chaetura pelagica* (Linn.).  
CHIMNEY SWIFT. Frequently seen;  
breeds. I saw a nest on the inside of a  
barn on St. Joseph Island, containing  
young nearly grown.

87-428. *Trochilus colubris* (Linn.).  
RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD. Fre-  
quently seen; probably breeds. One seen  
as late as October.

88-444. *Tyrannus tyrannus* (Linn.).  
KINGBIRD. Frequently observed about  
Sailor's Encampment; breeds.

89-452. *Myiarchus crinitus* (Linn.).  
CRESTED FLYCATCHER. Occasionally seen;  
more often only heard. No young or  
nests were found.

90-456. *Sayornis phæbe* (Lath.).  
PHOEBE. Not very common; occasional  
individuals were seen during the summer.

91-461. *Contopus virens* (Linn.).  
WOOD PEWEE. Occasionally seen along  
the east side of the Island; presumably  
breeds.

92-465. *Empidonax acadicus* (Gmel.).  
ACADIAN FLYCATCHER. Observed in the  
spring and fall; did not see nests or young.

93-474. *Otocoris alpestris* (Linn.).  
HORNED LARK. Seen throughout the  
year; probably breeds in favorable places.

94-477. *Cyanocitta cristata* (Linn.).  
BLUE JAY. Very common at all seasons  
of the year.

95-484. *Perisoreus canadensis* (Linn.).  
CANADA JAY. Often seen on the Island,  
but not common during the summer  
months.

96-486. *Corvus corax principalis*  
(Ridgw.). AMERICAN RAVEN. Rather  
common in the fall.

97-488. *C. americanus* Aud. AMERI-  
CAN CROW. Very common; breeds.

98-494. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*  
(Linn.). BOBOLINK. Two of these birds  
observed on the shores of Hay Lake in the  
spring of 1893; no doubt they occasionally  
visit the island.

99-495. *Molothrus ater* (Bodd.).

COWBIRD. Frequently seen in small flocks  
in the fall; no young were seen.

100-498. *Agelaius phoeniceus* (Linn.).  
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. Occasionally  
seen but not common; probably breeds.

101-501. *Sturnella magna* (Linn.).  
MEADOW LARK. Breeds sparingly on the  
Island.

102-509. *Scolecophagus carolinus*  
(Mull.). RUSTY GRACKLE. Common in  
the fall.

103-511b. *Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*  
(Ridgw.). BRONZED GRACKLE. No nests  
were seen but it probably breeds, as birds  
were observed all summer.

104-517. *Carpodacus purpureus*  
(Gmel.). PURPLE FINCH. Seen near  
Little Mud Lake, feeding on the seeds of  
the burdock.

105-521. *Loxia curvirostra minor*  
(Brehm.). AMERICAN CROSSBILL. Some-  
times seen; do not think it breeds.

106-522. *Loxia leucoptera* Gmel.  
WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL. As rare as  
the last species, although it is reported as  
being more common some seasons.

107-528. *Acanthis linaria* (Linn.).  
REDPOLL. Observed in spring and fall.

108-529. *Spinus tristis* (Linn.).  
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH. Often seen; no  
nests or young noted.

209-534. *Plectrophenax nivalis*  
(Linn.). SNOWFLAKE. Common in the  
fall, spring, and throughout the winter.

110-536. *Calcarius lapponicus*  
(Linn.). LAPLAND LONGSPUR. I saw  
this bird frequently, but it may be con-  
sidered as rare during the summer.

111-540. *Poocætes gramineus* (Gmel.).  
VESPER SPARROW. Rather common dur-  
ing the summer; breeds

112-554. *Zonotrichia leucophrys*  
(Forst.). WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.  
Common during the spring and fall; am  
not sure that it breeds as no nests or  
young were seen.

113-558. *Z. albicollis* (Gmel.).  
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW. Common in  
spring and fall.

114-559. *Spizella monticola* (Gmel.).  
TREE SPARROW. Quite common.

115-560. *S. socialis* (Wils.). CHIP-  
PING SPARROW. Common and breeds.

116-567. *Junco hyemalis* (Linn.).  
SLATE-COLORED JUNCO. Common; breeds.



117-581. *Melospiza fasciata* (Gmel.).  
SONG SPARROW. Common; breeds.

118-585. *Passerella iliaca* (Merr.).  
FOX SPARROW. In spring and fall.

119-587. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*  
(Linn.). TOWHEE. Rare on Island;  
common on the mainland.

120-611. *Progne subis* (Linn.).  
PURPLE MARTIN. Infrequent; I consider  
it rare and out of its latitude.

121-612. *Petrochelidon lunifrons*  
(Say). CLIFF SWALLOW. Common;  
breeds.

122-613. *Chelidon erythrogastra*  
(Bodd.). BARN SWALLOW. Common;  
breeds.

123-616. *Clivicola riparia* (Linn.).  
BANK SWALLOW. The most common  
Swallow; many nests in the river banks  
along St. Mary's River.

124-619. *Ampelis cedrorum* (Vieill.).  
CEDAR WAXWING. This beautiful bird is  
common at all seasons; breeds.

125-622a. *Lanius ludovicianus excu-  
bitorides* (Swains.). WHITE-RUMPED  
SHRIKE. Often seen; no nests observed.

126-636. *Mniotilta varia* (Linn.).  
BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER. Not un-  
common in spring and fall.

The following were common in the  
spring:

127-655. *Dendroica coronata* (Linn.).  
MYRTLE WARBLER.

128-657. *D. maculosa* (Gmel.). MAG-  
NOLIA WARBLER.

129-659. *D. pensylvanica* (Linn.).  
CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER.

130-660. *D. castanea* (Wils.). BAY-  
BREASTED WARBLER.

131-661. *D. striata* (Forst.). BLACK-  
POLL WARBLER.

132-662. *D. blackburniae* (Gmel.).  
BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER.

133-667. *D. virens* (Gmel.). BLACK-  
THROATED BLUE WARBLER.

134-674. *Seiurus aurocapillus* (Linn.).  
OVEN BIRD. Common; breeds.

135-681. *Geothlypis trichas* (Linn.).  
MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT. I found this

bird on the west side of Hay Lake and  
have no doubt that it breeds.

136-686. *Sylvania canadensis* (Linn.).  
CANADIAN WARBLER. Common in the  
spring.

137-687. *Setophaga ruticilla* (Linn.).  
AMERICAN REDSTART. Common in spring  
and summer.

138-721. *Troglodytes aedon* Vieill.  
HOUSE WREN. I consider this a rare bird  
on the Island; only occasionally seen. I  
do not think it breeds.

139-724. *Cistothorus stellaris* (Licht.).  
SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN. Sometimes  
seen on the lowlands on the east side of the  
Island.

140-726. *Certhia familiaris ameri-  
cana* (Bonap.). BROWN CREEPER. Oc-  
casional in spring and fall.

141-727. *Sitta carolinensis* Lath.  
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH. A common  
bird throughout the year; breeds.

142-728. *S. canadensis* Linn. RED-  
BREASTED NUTHATCH. Not as common as  
the last.

143-731. *Parus atricapillus* (Linn.).  
CHICKADEE. Very common; breeds.

144-748. *Regulus satrapa* (Licht.).  
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET. Common in  
spring and fall.

145-755. *Turdus mustelinus* (Gmel.).  
WOOD THRUSH. Not very common; oc-  
casional seen during the summer; prob-  
ably breeds.

146-756. *T. fuscescens* Steph. WIL-  
SON'S THRUSH. More plentiful than the  
preceding.

147-759b. *T. aonalaschkæ pallasii*  
(Cab.). HERMIT THRUSH. This delight-  
ful song-bird breeds on the Island; mi-  
grates early in the fall.

148-761. *Merula migratoria* (Linn.).  
ROBIN. At no time very plentiful on the  
Island; breeds sparingly.

149-766. *Sialia sialis* (Linn.). BLUE-  
BIRD. I occasionally saw this bird about  
open spots, and although I failed to dis-  
cover its young or nests, I think it must  
breed in some localities.



## A Trip to Grassy Island.

B. H. SWALES

For several years past I have been in the habit of putting in a few days collecting each year, among the marshes bordering the lower Detroit River. Several of the small islands below the city of Detroit are the summer haunts of a number of wild fowl, and a day among them is to be remembered. Perhaps my most productive trips have been to Grassy Island, a long, narrow, half-submerged island lying on the Canadian side of the river. This

the horizon. The morning carols of the Robin and Oriole were wafted to me from the land, while the sweet, rather plaintive note of the Spotted Sandpiper, and the incessant twitter of the Bank Swallows filled one's heart with quiet joy. After a delightful sail of about ten miles we reached the north end of the Island, and now our privations began. Thousands of alert Black Terns rose in flocks from the submerged flags, and showed their extreme disapprobation of our invasion of their sanctum. Now and then one of their white brothers, the Common Tern, would



**Nest of the Prairie Hen.** (Photo by T. L. Hankinson.)

island we usually reached from Wyandotte, or by sail from Detroit.

Some of my days there I will never forget, and only those who have had like experience can appreciate the beauties of a lovely June day on the water. Starting as early as we could get our sadly indisposed eyes to wake, and putting out in our snug little cat boat, we left the reedy recesses of the Rouge. The sun had not yet risen, and the air was so fresh and verdant. The fluttering reeds glistened with dew, and the deep blue of the rapidly

flowing river drew a thousand reflections from the sun, which began to peep over go by, or alight, and form a land-mark on the distant spiles. The noisy laughter of the Florida Gallinules and Coots gave us due notice that they were present, and that we would not go back unrewarded. Accordingly we disrobed and stepped into the cold, oozy water, arrayed in about the same unique costume of the style set by Adam. The pain caused by the dry, merciless-cutting flags which cut our bare feet and limbs, greatly impeded our pro-



gress. At first I proceeded along the outskirts of the Island, where on the floating decayed masses of vegetations hundreds of Black Terns had their domiciles. The latter are only poor affairs, composed of a few grasses placed so as to detain the eggs in place. And very often the eggs are laid simply on the dead masses of floating reeds. The set is three, and the beautiful variations in the eggs make a series a very desirable acquisition to one's cabinet. One must need a sharp eye to detect the eggs of this species as they are occasionally half covered with decayed vegetation.

One thing I have observed is the fact that if the eggs of the first set are taken, a few days later one can go the rounds and find that the birds have all laid again. The Black Tern is a common summer resident here, arriving late in April and going southward in October. To see a flock of them disporting at the close of a beautiful summer day, when the soft dreaminess of twilight is coming on, they appear but swallows of a larger growth, and form with their graceful evolutions and pointed long wings, a very pretty part of the summer marine landscape.

Returning to the marsh, one must not imagine that all is joy, and no work, for one's heart will jump mouthward frequently during the exploration at hand. Each step taken is a mystery as to your final landing-place, for the water is of unequal depths; and hidden weedy channels, bog holes, and soft, marshy places prove the source of many an involuntary ducking. The flags cut the feet until it is almost unbearable, and this, together with the blood-suckers and the rushing pike, which hide in the shallow water until stepped on and then rush out with a splash into deeper water, making a commotion very exciting to an unexpected ear, form the drawbacks. A few snakes tend to increase the displeasure.

Coot's and Gallinule's nests we found in abundance, but as they are well known I will pass them by. Still a few of their nests I have found were so picturesque that I longed for a camera to retain the scene.

Scattered all over the Island were the numerous nests of the Long-billed Marsh Wren, and it is a great piece of guesswork to determine which are the occupied nests and those that are simply mock

ones. What cozy little homes they are with their lining of soft grasses, and exterior of closely interwoven reeds sometimes still green from the moisture they receive. Putting your finger into the narrow entrance of the globular nest it is always pleasant to feel the little warm chocolate eggs inside. On several occasions I have found albino eggs of this species here. The color ranges in these specimens from light back-ground, spotted, to a pure white. These latter are very fragile. A set consists of from five to eight, and occasionally more, eggs. The Marsh Wren, with his bubbling notes and contented ways, is a great favorite of mine, for unlike the ideal child he is more often heard than seen. In fact, a novice would be puzzled to account for the notes of this bird if he depended upon sight alone.

About the center of the island I stumble upon a Least Bittern's nest containing the usual set of four pale blue eggs. The nest is a mere platform of dead flags placed above the water, and closely interwoven. This modest little Bittern when disturbed will rise quickly, fly a short distance, and drop into the reeds again where its quivering note will be heard while you remain in the vicinity. The larger type, the American Bittern, formerly bred in these marshes, and may do so yet, but I have been unable to find the nest. The approach of civilization has banished the majority to the more unfrequented resorts. They are still a common sight on the Flats of the St. Clair River, where their booming can be heard on almost any summer day. I flushed a large one at the close of a day here, and he arose so quickly near my friend that he stood, gun in hand, so amazed that *Botaurus* dropped into the reeds ere he recovered his head. Occasionally they go inland—one was shot in an adjoining yard in the heart of the city in April, '95.

The Pied-billed Grebe is a common breeder here, and their floating nests were frequently found. The nest is a mere floating mass of decayed vegetation upon which the eggs are laid, in number six to eight, and covered with a mass of vegetation that conceals the eggs entirely. I seldom find a nest unless so concealed, and I have never found a Grebe upon her nest, or near it. The young are able to swim



and dive as soon as they are hatched, and there is no prettier sight than a number of these little downy fellows with their parent upon the bosom of the clear blue water. The Grebe has one characteristic of the rail—that of being rattled. I well remember an April day that while “hawking” beyond the city I found a lone Grebe upon a small pond. Together with my companion, I went in swimming, and we kept his Grebeship diving so constantly that he lost his head, and we nearly caught him. It never thought of its wings.

The Great Blue Heron is not often seen now among these islands, although still a common summer resident at the Flats. I like to see them soar over on their great flapping wings, and drop into the marsh where they remain so motionless. In the recesses of the Flats I have often watched them at midnight from the deck of our sloop alight near the boat, and heard their hoarse guttural bark-like notes. They probably breed to the north of the Flats, but I never found their nests.

Horned Grebes are occasionally seen here but they do not breed to my knowledge, although Mr. McIlwraith reports their doing so on the Canadian side of the Flats.

Among the other species found breeding here are Tree Swallows, Maryland Yellowthroats, Red-winged Black Birds, a few Swamp and Song Sparrows, Bank Swallows, and King Rails. The latter bird is more abundant at the Flats, and in inland swamps. One may often see them there creep out stealthily from the weedy banks of the channel, and listen to their odd cries. A nest I found June 9, '96, contained nine eggs of the owner, 1 of the Sora Rail, and eight of the rarer Virginia Rail—all the representative rails in one nest. I flushed a King Rail from the nest, and the presence of the other eggs made it a problem I could not solve. All three Rails bred in the swamp, but how did they happen to set up a flat, so to speak?

Among the rarer birds observed may be noted Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows which Mr. J. C. Wood observed and shot in the fall of '93.

After the collecting was over for the day what a luxury it was to lie on deck and smoke as we sailed homeward in the rapidly increasing breeze! I hope to engage in more productive and interesting excursions, but none will ever be able to

give me more genuine pleasure than my days at Grassy Island among the water birds.

Detroit, Mich.

W. F. Henninger has moved to Waverly, Ohio.

Dr. Harry C. Watkins of Ann Arbor, is the newly appointed assistant to Dr. Geo. Doch, in the department of internal medicine, University of Michigan.

We are delighted to announce that D. W. J. Oakley of Detroit, who has for some months been in failing health, is now fast recovering.

State Game and Fish Warden Chase S. Osborn, has sent State Deputy L. Whitney Watkins north to the deer country to oversee hunting operations in the Upper Peninsula, until about Dec. 5th.

Our veteran taxidermist, Adolph B. Covert, presented the editor-in-chief with skins of ♂ and ♀ Carolina Paroquet, on October 17th.

Messrs. Hankinson and Cole called upon Mr. Geo. H. Walker of Belvidere, Ill., in August, and spent a very pleasant evening discussing birds.

Mr. Friant Stuart of Chicago, Ill., formerly of Grand Rapids, spent several days in the latter city this summer.

Mr. F. Henry Yorke of Fooseland, Ill., is the author of a work entitled “Our Ducks,” which he expects to publish soon.

Messrs. Geo. J. Friederich of Brooklyn, and L. Whitney Watkins of Manchester, will attend all of the Jackson Co. Farmers' Institutes this fall and winter, alternately speaking upon and opening the discussion of “Birds and animals of use or harm to the farmers' interests.”

Mr. Chas. Cass, of Hillsdale, spent his summer at Cross Village, Emmet County, Michigan, where he did some work with birds. He reports finding a nest of the Red-breasted Merganser, and collecting a few eggs of the American Herring Gull, Caspian and Common Terns.

Dr. Robt. H. Wolcott, Instructor of Zoölogy at Nebraska University, spent June, July, and August with his parents at Grand Rapids. We were pleased to find out that Mrs. Wolcott was very much interested in science, especially in botany and ornithology.

Mr. T. L. Hankinson visited Mr. Cole, at Grand Rapids, in September. Several trips were taken by members of the club during Mr. Hankinson's stay, and they were given valuable hints on hunting shore birds by this able collector of the *Limicolæ*.

Mr. Percy Selous of Greenville, is interested in snakes as well as birds, and keeps several large Rattle Snakes as pets. These snakes are very fond of sleeping in folds of a carpet provided for them. One evening recently, Mr. Selous, while exhibiting his pets, thrust his hand into the folds of this carpet in search of a big fellow that he was in the habit of handling. As he had not spoken the snake failed to recognize him and struck. Although the wound was freely bled and sucked, Mr. Selous suffered severely for several days. We hear that the snake is still a cherished member of Mr. Selous' family.



### The American Herring Gull.

THIS bird is found in great numbers in our locality the greater part of the year, some of the hardier ones remaining with us all winter.

In the very severe weather they drift out over the lake, but soon came back to hang around the fisherman's shanties to pick up the fish heads and trimmings thrown out upon the ice.

In April they return by thousands, and their discordant cries as they fight over the remains of some fish thrown out upon the ice, fill the air with anything but music.

After the ice goes out, about the first of May, they begin to gather around three rather isolated islands, which are situated in the passage from Green Bay to Lake Michigan. There they have bred from as far back as the whites have record. From the nesting of the gulls, these islands have derived their names, viz., Gravel, Middle, and South Gull Islands.

The eggs are gathered by fishermen and Indians, who use them for food, or sell them in Escanaba markets, receiving twenty to twenty-five cents per dozen for them.

The Indians have up till late years had their annual egg feast, going to the Islands in a body in their Mackinaws (boats) and remaining until gull eggs had no further charm. Their camping place was on Middle Gull Island where plenty of wood is to be found, and where on the northeast point is a natural dancing-ground—a hard, level piece of ground as smooth as a floor; and around this rude fire-places still remain. One much larger than the rest, some eight feet high, stands like a monument of olden times.

It is amusing, if one goes there when the young are a few days old, to see them scramble for the water—little spotted fellows very much resembling the eggs themselves; and I have actually stooped to pick up a supposed egg among the drift-wood only to find it a young gull's head, which soon gave proof to its liveliness by scurrying away to a better place of shelter. I have seen hundreds—yes I can almost say a thousand—of these little fellows, when being frightened by a shot, all run for the water. Still, they differ

from ducks and only swim out a short distance, quickly returning to seek the shelter of the rocks.

On Gravel Gull Island a colony of Caspian Terns breed in company with the Gulls, not intermingling however in the least, and each showing a respect for the other's rights.

The eggs are quite variable in coloration, size and markings. While a set resemble each other in size and shape, the color very often differs widely, and one is led to believe that more than one bird laid in the nest. This they doubtless do occasionally.

They begin to nest in May and if disturbed or robbed keep on until the latter part of June, when many abandon the islands and leave.

The shell is very fragile when fresh and when incubation is advanced it breaks at the slightest touch.

On Gravel Gull Island, which is composed of ridges of gravel thrown up by the waves, the nests put on quite a military look, occurring as they do quite regularly on each ridge, making rows two rods apart and in tiers, one slightly above the other. They look like an army—especially when approaching the island—with the birds standing guard, dressed in white with pearl mantle and erect as penguins. When you approach to within a short distance of them they take fright and rise in swarms, making a great animated snow-storm, filling the air with so much noise that it is necessary to shout to one quite close in order to be understood.

One passing through the passage on a boat would hardly think that those little islands off to the south-west were tenanted with so many birds.

E. VAN WINKLE.

Van's Harbor,  
Delta County, Mich.

L. J. Cole has returned to the Agricultural College to complete his work there.

Mr. Wm. A. Hayden of Jackson, has entered as a student at the Michigan Agricultural College.

Mr. Dewey A. Seeley of the Agricultural College, recently went to Grand Rapids, where he spent two days taking the Civil Service examination.

Mr. W. E. Mulliken of Grand Rapids, recently made a few days visit with T. L. Hankinson and L. J. Cole, at the Agricultural College.



## The White-throated Sparrow.

BY MORRIS GIBBS.

THIS musical prodigy and divine ventriloquist is also known by the name of Peabody-bird, from a fancied resemblance in its song to the syllables *pea-bod-y*. But we shall find that other syllables equally well express the notes, causing us to wonder if we are incapable of defining a bird's song, or if we are deceived in our estimate of musical efforts among the feathered choristers. However, the notation, as presented in the song

Wood Thrush, or ecstatic warble of the Warbling Vireo, to 'Comrades,' or 'The Last Rose of Summer.' Sentiment does exist between man and birds, but surely—'comparisons are odious'—when we attempt them in regard to bird songs.

Let us study the simple, plaintive song of this pleasing sparrow and attempt to discover its charm. You may call the investigation a criticism, if you wish, for the performer cannot be disparaged by anything which critics may offer.

We are surprised to find that the full song is expressed within the range from *c* to *g*, inclusive, and comprised by three



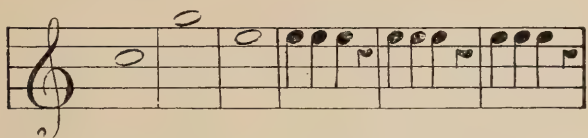
**Downy Woodpecker.**

From 'Sketches of Some Common Birds.'

of the White-throated Sparrow, is easily set to a musical scale, though, as will be seen, various words may then be framed as an accompaniment. This is eminently true of all birds' notes, and shows conclusively that comparison of bird music, and bird-talk or songs with our language is hardly compatible. Comparison in scale of notes is allowable, as is readily seen, but aside from this mechanical standard, there is a vast gulf which it is impossible to bridge. It is ridiculous to compare the rattle of the House Wren with 'Annie Rooney,' or the sweet bell-like notes of the

key notes only, thus: *c-g-e-eee-eee* and so on, on the *e* short notes indefinitely. This is easiest expressed in the second octave of the treble clef of the piano or organ, but is more nearly and feelingly imitated on the flute, which, clear and sweet, best defines bird melody—by the side of which the piano-forte appears harsh in the extreme. Commonly there are three measures of the *e* note, each giving three quarter notes, with a rest. The quaver exhibited by these quarter notes is the charm of the song. Expressed in music the notes run thus:





In some parts of the country the song of this bird is considered a petition or prayer to Saint Theresa,\* and the words "Oh,

In late May the nests are built, or in

[Continued on page 41.]



**Chandler's Marsh.**

(Photo by T. L. Hankinson.)

**Two Days of Marsh Collecting.**

LEON J. COLE.

**T**he frequent glowing reports that I received from Mr. T. L. Hankinson of his success collecting, had their inevitable effect upon me, and the night of Friday, May 28, 1897, found me at the Agricultural College near Lansing. We laid our plans for an early start the next morning, but they were rudely upset when Mr. Hankinson found that he would have to take an examination. This was a sad disappointment, but it was a decree of fate—and the faculty—so there was no help for it. We had our lunch put up, however, and were prepared to go without delay when the time came.

About noon we were off at last, and taking the road leading directly north, we walked briskly for about two miles, and came out in full view of Chandler's marsh. For two miles or so straight ahead of us, the road looked like a slender thread dividing the big marsh into two parts, that on the right hand being considerably the larger. The longer axis lies from northeast to southwest. The place, as a whole, is a level tract of land, covered with water for the most part at this season of the year; and the vegetation is low, so that a good view

of the whole expanse is had from almost any elevated point around. In that portion which is slightly drier; on the south side and near the road, the ground has been cultivated at some time, but was now covered by rank swamp grass and sedges, and was all flooded by a few inches of water, except a knoll now and then that rose a little above the surrounding level. There are other parts a good deal the same, but which have never been disturbed by the plow. Here and there, and especially along the north side, where there is a ditch, are patches of willows eight to ten feet high. Occasionally a few straggling poplars attain a considerable height, and in one or two places there is quite a growth of them of from five to six feet.

In the more open parts the walking is comparatively good, although soft, but in the bushier places where are often large pools surrounded by cat-tails, it is made very uncertain by the inequality of the surface, and the large amount of brushwood under foot. I have been through here when there was but very little water, and it was very difficult travelling then, so imagine what it is with the general level covered by a foot or two of water—you are going very nicely when, unexpectedly and without warning, you step into a hole





**Nest of the Pied-billed Grebe.**

(Photo by T. L. Hankinson.)

with the water to your waist. But these little inconveniences only serve as a little spice to the days' collecting.

Soon after reaching our destination we ate our lunch, and struck out diagonally towards the northwest. Mallards and Blue-winged Teal were abundant on the small open patches of water, and flew up before us in numbers as we pushed along. Sometimes when we had worked along a little carefully under cover of the brush we would hear such a quacking in front of us as would remind us of a country barnyard, but as we pushed through the cover, there would be a great flapping, a whirr of wings, and away would go a flock of Mallards with a speed that would take away the breath of their civilized, refined, and dignified cousins in domestication.

We kept on with no incident except now and then putting up a Least Bittern or a Rail, peeping into the numerous Red-wings' nests to count the eggs or young, and examining the cocoanut-like nests of the Long-billed Marsh Wrens, when, on peering around among the flags of a small island in a pond larger than usual, I thought

I had run upon an incubator of some sort—and truly I had, upon a Coot incubator! There, in a diameter of ten inches, were sixteen eggs, and that number was probably multiplied to my astonished eyes at first sight. The nest was built up on the brush and a mass of flags so that the inside was dry; the picture shows it so well that I think further description is unnecessary.

We hid ourselves in the neighboring cat-tails to see if the birds would not return, but although we heard them in the vicinity, they would not show themselves. When I had been standing this way in a hole of water above my knees for some time, I happened to look down at my side, and there was a Sora's nest with ten eggs which I had almost stepped upon.

Marking the situation of the Coot's nest, so that we might bring out a camera and get a picture of it, and continuing our search, we had gone but a short distance when we found another nest of this species, and five addled eggs around it in the water. The position of the nest was much the same as in the former. The search was longer this time, and then we found still



another nest, containing twelve eggs. This was in a different position from the other two, not being on the edge of a clear space of water, but where the water was only a few inches deep and among the low, dense growth of cat-tails, were interspersed a few low poplars two to four feet high.

Coming back around to the other side of the opening in which we had found the first Coot's nest, Mr. Hankinson found a Florida Gallinule's nest containing eight eggs. This was a little back from the edge of the open water among the dense cat-tails; it was higher from the water than the Coot's nest, and different from them in being deeper, and in not being built upon such a mass or platform of dead flags. The edge, on one side, was left lower, and from it to the ground was a sort of inclined plane, reminding one of the driveway leading up to the main floor of the ordinary bank barn. This seemed to be the only place used by the bird to enter and leave the nest.

The afternoon was now well advanced, so we worked our way out into the more open places along the road. As the sun set and evening advanced, the birds became more active; from different quarters and at irregular intervals came the "booming" of the American Bittern; here and there a Sora uttered its plaintive call, seeming to be at times almost under foot; Song Sparrows and Marsh Wrens joined in the chorus, while now and then would mingle in the cry of a Coot or Gallinule, or the peculiar whistle of some wader would be heard in a distant part of the marsh. What a fascination there is in all this! What a world of unexplored mysteries lies here before us! The Bittern's gurgling

pumping note that sounded so comical as it was occasionally heard through the day, and many other familiar cries now have an unfamiliarity and weirdness that brings back to our memories with a rush all the goblins and fairies so long forgotten; the vast expanse of lowland, looking yet larger and more lonely in the gathering dusk, takes on the same enchanting mystery that these had to our childish imaginations, and we stand in awe, as on the threshold of a strange world. But the spell was suddenly broken by a peculiar note, which Mr. Hankinson said "sounded like a wooden cow-bell," and crouching down in the long grass, we saw three large Sandhill Cranes coming directly overhead,

but they were too sharp for us, and turning to the right, went away around out of range. I have no doubt that these birds might be found breeding here, if one could but succeed in finding the right place.

On the open pools we still saw a few Teal, and when we were almost out, a Black Tern flew over our heads. It was dusk when we got back to the college, and after a good supper, we spent a

large part of the night in taking care of the specimens we had obtained during the afternoon.

May 31.—Monday morning, when we first opened our eyes to it at four-thirty a. m., was one of those cold days that we are so apt to get now and then in May. We had made all preparations the night before, so at five o'clock were off. We did not notice the cold so much till we got out where the west wind struck us full force, then we wished we were more warmly clothed; but the worst of it was when we stepped into the water—it makes me shiver now



Nest of the Coot.

(Photo by T. L. Hankinson.)



to think of it! But a person can get used to anything—even to getting hung, they say—and so it was, for in a short time that part of us that was in the water was warmer and more comfortable than that which was out and exposed to the cold wind.

We took Mr. Hankinson's camera with us and a half-dozen plates—before the day was over we wished that we had taken more. Having so much to carry made the walking worse than ever. We had gone but a short distance from the road when I noticed a Massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*) about thirty inches long, lying partially under some brush. He seemed very sluggish, on account of the low temperature, I suppose, and when I disturbed him, turned slowly and crawled into a hole. He showed no pugnacious proclivities whatever; he did not even "rattle."

We were at the Coot's nest by the time it was light enough to take a picture, but we saw no more of the birds than on Saturday. After taking an exposure of this and of the Sora's nest, we took a view of the marsh in general at this place, and then went to get one of the Gallinule's nest. There were now ten eggs, showing that one had been laid each day since our previous visit.

While Mr. Hankinson was adjusting the camera, which was no small task under the conditions, I explored the neighborhood for more nests. We had noticed that the birds, in general, seemed to have a preference for the small patches of reeds and bushes, or "islands," as we called them, in the larger and more open "ponds," so I made a tour of these. My search was not without results, for I found several unoccupied Coot's nests, and unexpectedly

ran onto a Pied-billed Grebe's nest containing two eggs. This was a floating mass of decayed vegetation, somewhat resembling in shape the frustrum of a cone, hollowed on top, and about four inches high above the water, which was about a foot and a half deep at this place. This nest was not dry like the Coot's and Gallinule's, but was damp even where the eggs lay. In the water around the nest were pieces of broken egg-shell, and after a short search we found five little birds hidden around among the vegetation. They were evidently just hatched, and had probably hidden upon our first approach. It is doubtful whether we should have found them at all if they had stayed in

concealment, but becoming impatient, I suppose, one started out to return to the nest, and it was then that I espied him. When I attempted to catch him he dived, and coming up in a patch of algæ, became entangled so that I caught him easily. A short search revealed the other four.

These young birds were very pretty, to my way of thinking. Plump little bob-tailed balls of down, with two

broadly lobed paddles set on behind, and the merest apologies for wings. They swam around so easily, that it seemed impossible that this was, perhaps, the first time they had ever been in the water. The general color was black and white, there being four white stripes running the whole length of the back, the two outer spreading well over the sides, and all running up the neck, where the black streaks were not much broader than the white; on the sides the two colors mingled more, giving a grayish appearance; breast and belly white; smaller bands of white on the sides of the neck ran diagonally to the



**Nest of the Florida Gallinule.**

(Photo by T. L. Hankinson.)



front; white on the crown, where the streaks tend to run transversely, replaced by rufous brown; tip of bill white.

One of the eggs still in the nest was addled, the other contained a chick almost ready to hatch. One peculiar circumstance was, that the bad egg was more badly stained and had pieces of grass and other materials sticking to it, while the incubated egg was as clean as could be expected, considering the place in which it lay. This difference may be seen in the cut.

Going back to the road we hid the camera among the bushes and struck out towards the east, intending to work around to the north, where we thought the Sandhill Cranes might nest. We had gone about a mile and a half, when we noticed a pair of Marsh Hawks sailing over a place that looked favorable for a nest, and as they acted suspiciously, we set ourselves to work to find it. In a short time Mr. Hankinson discovered it, and in it were three little, white, downy, red-mouthed Marsh Hawks, that, upon seeing or hearing us, set up a feeble cry and opened their mouths like young robins. We wished that we had the camera and the one remaining plate, but did not want to go way back after it, so started for Park Lake again.

We had gone but a few rods when we heard a note that was unfamiliar to me, which, upon investigation, proved to be that of the Short-billed Marsh Wren. We were now upon higher ground covered by rank grass, with clumps of low bushes interspersed here and there—an ideal place for these Wrens. Mr. Hankinson was very anxious to keep on after the Cranes, so pushed ahead; but I set to work watching the Wrens, and before he was out of calling distance, had located a nest containing two eggs. Did I say eggs? They looked more like pearls, so small and so white—a great contrast to the chocolate drops of their Long-billed cousins. The nest, which was built into the coarse, dead grass about a foot from the ground and supported by a bush, was much the shape of the Long-bill's, but was smaller, longer vertically in proportion, and the entrance was not so well concealed. It was built almost entirely of dry grass, being lined—but not heavily—with finer grass, bits of fur, small soft feathers and cottony sub-

stance from plants. Further search revealed several duplicate nests in various stages of completion, but no more with eggs.

By this time Mr. Hankinson had worked ahead again, and just as I was hurrying to overtake him, my attention was attracted by a ball of brownish feathers at my feet, and a pair of yellow eyes staring at me. Upon picking it up, to which it objected seriously, I found it to be a young Long-eared Owl. He was such a nice little fellow, being but a little over half grown, that I decided to take him home with me; but the question was, how should we carry him? We finally decided upon Mr. Hankinson's pocket, so there we put him, but as we had no pins with us and could find nothing with which to fasten the pocket, we lost him before night.

After finding the Owl, we again started for Park Lake and the Cranes, but we were not to get there, for we had gone but a short distance when a large bird flushed at my feet, and looking down I saw a Prairie Hen's nest and fourteen brownish or buffy eggs. The nest was a depression about three inches deep and nine inches across, in the black earth, lined with dry grass, and partially covered over by the somewhat matted surrounding grass.

We thought that a picture of this would be worth a trip back after the camera, so we set out and got back just as the sun was setting behind the bushes in the west and there was barely light enough to allow us to get a good photograph. We saw nothing of especial interest upon our trip back and forth, except a Sora's nest containing fifteen eggs—a rather large set—and another rattlesnake. This one we captured and took in for the college museum. It was not so large as the one I had seen earlier, but was, according to actual measurement, twenty-five and one-fourth inches in length.

Once more we had to travel the distance back to the road, and by the time we reached it we were glad enough to leave the marsh for the good walking it afforded. It was half-past eight when we got home, but of course we must develop the plates that night to see what success we had had, so when we finally got to bed, very tired but well satisfied with our day's work, it was well along in the morning of June first.



## The White-throated Sparrow,

CONTINUED.

June, though the duties of incubation are not generally performed before June twentieth. The nest, an inartistic, but bulky, sparrow-like structure, is, so far as I can learn, awlays placed in a bush from six inches to five feet from the ground.

This bird is one of our sweetest singers, and cannot fail to attract the attention of anyone interested in bird melody. It is also a handsome species when arrayed in complete vernal attire, and, taken altogether, is one of our most pleasing Sparrows.\* The name suggests the mark of identity, and this patch will distinguish it from all others, even to the novice.

## RECENT LITERATURE.

### MAGAZINE ARTICLES.

*Autumn Birds of New England.* By Wm. E. Crane. (In New England Magazine for October.)

A very good article, written in a popular style, and illustrated by several cuts of varying excellence. Several slight inaccuracies occur, as the author in referring to the migration of warblers, saying, "...they spend a few hours breakfasting...then rising in the air again...they continue their course towards the tropics." It is a well known fact that warblers migrate almost entirely by night; spending the days—unless it be very cloudy—in the treetops. The article contains much that is of value to the class for which it was written, the non-birdstudying public.—W. E. M.

*A Bird's Egg.* By Ernest Ingersoll. (In Harper's Monthly for December.)

An excellent article of largely theoretical character. After informing us of the composition of an egg, the stages it passes through, and the relation of its shape to the nesting place, the author gives us the law, "*that the nest complement of eggs of any bird is in exact proportion to the average danger to which that species is exposed;*" illustrating this point to some length. He also disbelieves the statement that eggs are examples of protective coloration, brought about by natural selection, and suggests that perhaps the different colors are to enable the parent in distinguishing her eggs from those of other birds.

The four colored plates which illustrate the article are not especially good (compared with the present American standard, Maj. Bendire's "Life Histories of North American Birds"). There is a great deal in the article of value, especially to the philosophic ornithologist.

W. E. M.

### PERIODICALS.

*The Osprey.* The Osprey Company, 141 East 25th St., New York City. Monthly. \$1.00 per year.

The Osprey needs no recommendation to most ornithologists, but as there may be some reader of this column who has not had the privilege of looking over its neat and instructive pages, we would say that it is one of the best bird monthlies in America. Taken as a whole, only pleasant words can be said of it, although once in awhile something creeps in which might better have been omitted. Dr. Coues is associated with Mr. Johnson

in its production, and since his advent we notice that errors and poor articles are rapidly disappearing. It should be on the subscription list of every active ornithologist.

Vol. 2, No. 2. October, 1897.

This number, besides several of varying value, contains two articles requiring especial mention; one, "The Sage Grouse," by D. W. Huntington, the other, Dr. Coues' reply to Mr. Manly Hardy's criticism printed in the May *Nidologist*. The former is an excellent account of the habits of the Sage Grouse from the hunter's point of view; of the latter we hesitate to pass an opinion. As a general thing, we think discussions, other than friendly ones, might better be left out of a paper of this kind, but Dr. Coues' batch of letters gives us such an insight into the character of two prominent bird men of the past, that, were it not for a few caustic ink drops which fell from the author's pen while copying them, we would have only words of praise to speak of it.

Beside the articles, this issue contains many notes of interest, especially those under the "California Department," and several good illustrations.

Vol. 2, No. 3. November, 1897.

As one throws open the cover of this issue a fac-simile letter draws his attention, and a closer examination causes thrills to run over his body, similar to those he experiences when he finds a rare nest or bird, for the letter is addressed to Charles Bonaparte and signed by John J. Audubon. Turning another page we find ourselves face to face with Daniel G. Elliott, one of the best known of American ornithologists. The article which accompanies this cut, "Some Birds of the Dark Continent," is one of the best that has ever appeared in the *Osprey's* columns. It is illustrated by three good half tones (from life). The other long article of the issue, "Birds of the San Bernardino Mountains," by F. T. Illingworth, contains many interesting facts, but the pleasure of reading these is somewhat lessened by its being composed of a series of short sentences, which gives it a disjointed effect and jars upon the reader's rhetorical nerves. The "General Notes" are numerous and of a good quality.

Vol. 2, No. 4.

Contains several excellent articles, which lack of space prevents our mentioning further. Several good half tones, notably, "The American Museum of Natural History," "Nest of the Olive-sided Flycatcher," and "Labrador Duck," serve to beautify the paper.—W. E. M.

*The Plant World.* Willard N. Clute & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. Monthly. \$1.00 per year.

While this paper is not of especial interest to ornithologists, still we cannot let an opportunity pass for speaking a good word for it. It is destined to occupy much the same place in botany that the *Osprey* does and the *Nidologist* did, in ornithology.

Vol. 1, No. 2. November, 1897.

This issue is of sixteen pages, which are filled with interesting articles. A photo of Amos Eaton, an early American botanist, is given as a frontispiece. No one with leanings towards botany should fail to subscribe to this paper.—W. E. M.

*The Museum.* Walter F. Webb, Albion, N. Y. Monthly. \$1.00 per year.

A fair proportion of this magazine is devoted to ornithology, and occasionally the articles are of much value. We would suggest that the ornithological portion of the paper be made more original; there surely must be enough good articles to be had for the asking.



Vol. IV, No. 1. November, 1897.

The only ornithological item in this issue is one by Jas. J. Carroll, entitled "Vultures." The main portion of this article is a description of thirteen nests of the Black Vulture.

Vol. IV, No. 2. December, 1897.

The principal bird articles in this number are, "The Prairie Horned Lark in Nebraska," by J. E. Ludwick, and "Two New Zealand Parrots," by J. Manghan.

W. E. M.

*The Oologist.* Frank H. Lattin, Albion, N. Y. Monthly. 50 cents per year.

To those of us who remember this paper in '93 4, the few pages filled with indifferent articles, which reaches us now, is something of an eyesore. In our opinion, either a radical change should be made in this sheet, or else it ought to die a sudden death. Lingering deaths are never pleasant, and are apt to draw forth only pity from the onlookers.

Vol. XIV, No. 11. November, 1897.

The first article, by Rev. P. B. Peabody, is of a religious, not an ornithological character. The others take the form of notes, none of them being at all exhaustive. On page 104 is given a list of the warblers in the J. P. Morris, Jr. collection, which reminds us of old "Ornithologist and Oologist" times, when these lists were a feature—and a good one—of that publication.

W. E. M.

*Bulletin of the Wilson Ornithological Chapter of the Agassiz Association.* Oberlin, Ohio. Subscription price, 50 cents.

No. 15. *The Oberlin Grackle Roost.* By Lynds Jones. 17 pp., 2 maps, 1 chart.

This article is from many carefully taken notes on the habits of a colony of Bronzed Grackles that roosted on the campus of Oberlin College during the spring, summer and fall of 1896.

It is a very exhaustive account of the habits of one of our common birds. From the abundance of careful observation made by the author, several valuable conclusions have been reached. He shows us that during the time when the Grackle is with us in the north, there is a period when he is injurious to agriculture, and one when he is beneficial, the latter during the breeding season and the former during the roosting season. He further tells us that the injury done by robbing the nests of other birds during the nesting time is not worth taking into account, and that the few berries that they eat are probably not of any loss to the fruit grower, as they make no complaint against this species. "The only real damage done by the Grackle," he states, "is when they feed upon growing grain and upon that which has not been put out of their reach." He thinks that the little damage done by these birds is too small for "the death sentence to be pronounced as a penalty."

This article by Mr. Jones is an excellent example of the kind of ornithological work that our science most needs, and shows us that there are still many facts yet to be discovered, regarding the life histories of even our most common birds.—T. L. H.

No. 16 and 17. *General Notes.* 14 and 16 pp.

These two issues are devoted to "General Notes," and under this heading many good notes are given. The article by Mr. Jones on the migration of the Whippoorwill and Purple Martin is of especial value, and it is to be regretted that so few observers are aiding in this work.—W. E. M.

*The Iowa Ornithologist.* David L. Savage, Salem, Iowa. Quarterly. 40 cents per year.

This neat publication, while it holds rather closely to the ornithology of its own state, is nevertheless of interest to ornithologists at large. Its articles are instructive and interesting.

Vol. 3, No. 4. October, 1897.

Under the title, "One Small Piece of Ground," B. H. Wilson gives interesting data concerning birds found on a point of ground about two acres in extent. An annotated list, "Summer Birds of the Oneota Valley," by Paul Bartsch, is the only other article. Beside these there are many interesting discussions between members.

W. E. M.

*The Auk.* L. S. Foster, New York City. Quarterly. \$3.00 per year.

*The Auk* is always filled with interesting matter, and no ornithologist, be he big or little, can afford to miss reading its pages.

Vol. XIV, No. 4. October, 1897.

Contains a variety of good papers. C. W. Richmond gives a short synopsis of our knowledge of the Western Field Sparrow. A colored plate by J. L. R. [idgway] illustrates this article. An annotated list of the birds of Fort Sheridan, Idaho, by Dr. J. C. Merrill, follows. W. H. Phillips gives a list of birds collected in Venezuela, and describes two new species. E. S. Thompson occupies two pages under the title, "Directive Coloration of Birds." A very interesting half-tone accompanies his remarks. The "General Notes" are of the usual interesting character. The other articles appearing in this issue are: "The Horned Larks of Maine," by O. W. Knight; "Notes on the American Barn Owl in Eastern Pennsylvania," by J. H. Reed; "The Terns of Muskeget Island, Mass., Part III," by G. W. Mackay; "Critical Notes on the genus *Auriparus*," by H. C. Oberholser, and "The Sitkon Kinglet," by Wm. Palmer.

*Birds.* Nature Study Publishing Company, Chicago, Ill. Monthly. \$1.50 per year.

When this paper first made its appearance, January, 1897, we were disappointed. Its illustrations were beautiful, but they were all of foreign birds, and, like loyal Americans we demanded pictures of our own birds. The publishers supplied the demand, and to-day *Birds* occupies a place on the literary field all of its own. Its illustrations, as far as color is concerned, leave little to be desired, but, unfortunately, living birds will not "sit" for pictures, and the publishers are obliged to use "stuffed" specimens. The pictures show this, as they lack the "something" which a living bird imparts to a landscape. A little more is to be desired in the way of shape also. Despite these little defects, *Birds* serves its purpose, that of educating the youth of our age along an ornithological line, and we would recommend that every parent supply his children with a copy. The average parent would also find instruction in its columns. The reading matter is in a popular style, sometimes the birds themselves joining in the discussion.

As a frontispiece of this issue we give a plate from the July, 1897, number of this publication.

Vol. II, No. 5. November, 1897.

Of the illustrations of this issue, that of the White-fronted Goose is probably the best. Those of the Belted Piping Plover, Cerulean Warbler and Yellow-billed Tropic Bird follow in the matter of excellence. An interesting sketch of John James Audubon occupies the first two pages.



Vol. II, No. 6. December, 1897.

In the plate figuring Allen's Humming Bird, by far the best in this issue, one can fairly see the beautiful iridescence of the living bird. The sober colored female and dainty nest are also nicely brought out. The one of the Verdin is also very good. This issue gives a very interesting account of the A. O. U. meeting.—W. E. M.

### BOOKS.

*A List of the Birds of Maine.* By Ora W. Knight, B. S. (Prepared under the auspices of the United Ornithologists of Maine.) Bulletin No. 3 of the University of Maine. 184 pp. Kennebec Journal Print, Augusta, Maine.

An annotated list of much value. After the remarks by the author giving the standing of the species in the state, occur the "County Records," these latter being by various observers, some of them well known. As a general thing, nothing is said concerning the habits of the birds, but under several species—especially Leach's Petrel, Crow, Yellow Palm Warbler and Ruby-crowned Kinglet—a few good notes are given. 320 species are given: 26 permanent residents, 114 summer residents, and 74 migrants; the rest are occasional visitors and stragglers.

A hypothetical list—containing 27 species—an incomplete bibliography, and a good index are appended. A chapter is devoted to "Faunal Areas." Very few typographical errors occur, and altogether the work is a credit to its compiler.—W. E. M.

*Sketches of Some Common Birds.* By P. M. Silloway. Cincinnati, Ohio. The Editor Publishing Company. Cloth, \$1.50.

This neatly bound volume consists of a series of fifty-four "sketches," each of which treats of the life and habits of one of the common species of central Illinois birds; the notes will consequently apply to nearly all parts of the eastern United States. Technical descriptions are avoided, but such vivid accounts are given of the birds in their natural haunts, their habits and peculiar characteristics as we see them in the field, that the most casual observer could hardly fail to recognize them after reading these sketches. The style is easy and popular; well calculated to inspire the reader to observe for himself.

In the matter of arrangement it varies somewhat from the usual methods. The birds are divided into eight sections, according to the nature of the places where they are usually found. There are certain objections and difficulties to this system, as some species are not restricted to any one of these localities, but may be found as commonly in one as another. The Bronzed Grackle, for instance, cannot be classed strictly as a bird of the orchard, but the author recognizes this for he says, "They are at home in the maples of the streets of the towns, in the evergreen trees of the lawns and gardens, and in the groves and orchards of rural districts."

A more serious defect is the want of an index, which would greatly increase the utility of the book for reference.

Eighteen full page plates of birds, nests and young—all from life—illustrate the sketches. The accompanying cut of a Downy Woodpecker is one that appears in connection with the notes upon that species.

The beginner will find this book especially helpful. Instead of dry, scientific discussion, he will find here interesting reading as well as instructive. But the more advanced student will also find these sketches very pleasant reading, especially during the winter months; they afford the same pleasure that it does to sit by the

winter fireside and read over your own notes of rambles afield in by-gone summers.—L. J. C.

*The Blue Jay and its Food.* By F. E. L. Beal, U. S. Department of Agriculture, 1896. Reprint.

This is another of the excellent works issued by the Department of Agriculture. From the examination of nearly three hundred stomachs, Mr. Beal concludes "that the Jay does much more good than harm." It is doubtful if we shall ever be able to say that a native American bird is harmful. It is only man's importations that prove so.—W. E. M.

The following books are announced by the publishers:

*The Gallinaceous Game Birds of North America.* By Daniel G. Elliott. Second Edition; Illus., pp. 220. Francis P. Harper. \$2.50.

*Bird Neighbors.* Neltje Blanchan; introduction by John Burroughs. Illus. in colors, 4 to. pp. 234. Doubleday & McClure Co. \$1.25.

*Song Birds and Water Fowl.* By H. E. Parkhurst. Illus., 12 mo., pp. 286. Chas. Scribner's Sons. \$1.50.

*Wild Neighbors: Outdoor Studies in the United States.* By Ernest Ingersoll. Macmillan. \$1.50.

*Audubon and his Journals.* By Maria R. Audubon. (With notes by Elliott Coues.) Illus., 2 vols., 8 vo. \$7.50.

*Recreation* announces a set of bird and animal photos from life for their coming volume.

*The Birds of North America.* By Jacob H. Studer. Illus. in colors. Studer Bros., New York. \$40.-45. (Subscription price, \$20.-22.50.)

*Chapters on the Natural History of the United States.* Robt. W. Shufeldt. Illus.; large octavo. About 400 pp. Studer Bros., New York. \$3.50, net.

Mr. A. B. Durfee, while deer-hunting in northern Michigan, sprained an ankle, which has laid him up for several weeks. He secured two fine deer.

Mr. Lynn B. Gilmore, formerly of Blooming Valley, Pa., and now of Empire, Colo., writes that he finds himself in a locality favorable to bird study.

The annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union was held at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, from November 8-11th.

Mr. E. W. Durfee, who is now at Washington, Arizona, finds time to do a little collecting. The last lot of birds he sent home contained a Road-runner, an Arkansas Kingbird, and an immature Gambel's Quail.

Dr. Morris Gibbs is the author of a series of articles in the American Field entitled, "The Game Birds of the Great Lakes."

Mr. B. H. Swales, formerly of Detroit, has removed to Pasadena, California, where he has entered business. We cannot help but to regret the loss of this active worker in the ornithological field, from our midst, but we trust that Mr. Swales will still remain with us in spirit if not in person. The Bulletin hopes to receive notes from him occasionally, from his ornithological work, which we are sure he will pursue in his new field for bird study.

Have you paid your dues? Beginning with the January number, the rule that all members must have paid dues to receive the BULLETIN, will be rigidly enforced.

The *Osprey* moves this month to New York City. We wish it success in its new quarters.



# BULLETIN

## OF THE

### Michigan Ornithological Club.

Published Quarterly.

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Author's separates can be furnished at a very reasonable rate if application is made when the article is sent.

A few copies of this paper are being sent as samples to active ornithologists, whom we think will prove good subscribers and fellow workers. As a record of sample copies is being kept, *you* will not receive another, so might as well subscribe *at once* and help the BULLETIN to the extent of fifty cents. If you can persuade your ornithological friend to subscribe with you, your kindness will be appreciated by those who have the financial end of the paper on their shoulders. But it is not *only* your money that we want; we *need* your assistance: as critics, contributors, and workers. One-half the pleasure in the study of ornithology is in meeting kindred spirits; and what better place can you find to become known, and to know others, than through an informal club paper? If you have a question to ask, ask it. If we can't answer it we will try and find someone who can. Haven't you something of interest in those note books that have been packed away since June? If you have *studied* birds *one month* and haven't found at least *one* item of interest, you must have had the "cap" on your field-glasses—figuratively speaking. Perchance we can help you to get rid of this "cap." Give us an opportunity.

Owing to the nonpayment of moneys due the Bulletin, we were unable to publish No. 3 in its quarter. This will not occur again, and subscribers will receive as many issues as they bargained for. We have raised the standard of our paper in this number and wish to announce it as permanent. We believe that we can make our little paper of value to our members, and it is possible that we may do some good to ornithologists who are not members. We need your support.

Owing to the absence of Mr. Watkins, he being engaged in the Northern Peninsula as Deputy Game Warden, the work of editing this number fell to the lot of Mr. Hankinson.

The Cooper Ornithological Club, of California, is compiling data concerning the breeding habits, food, and migration of the members of the genus *Carpodacus*. Information is especially wanted as regards their injuring trees by eating the buds. Farther information and blanks can be secured by addressing Mr. Horace A. Gaylord, Pasadena, California. Our members should assist in this work.

The photograph of the Downy Woodpecker, published on page 34 of this issue, was taken by Mr. R. W. Shufeldt, of Washington, D. C. Through an oversight of the publisher it was not credited to him.

We are glad to see the stand that ornithologists are beginning to take against the custom of the use of birds in adorning ladies' hats; and we hope that with the spreading interest in the study of ornithology, that the intelligent women of our land will soon be informed of the great drain they are making upon the feathered population, which is fairly exterminating some of our most beautiful birds.

Owing to the growing demand and the very small supply of back issues of this paper remaining in our hands, we cannot supply them at the original price, or allow subscriptions to begin before this issue. A limited number of copies of No. 1 can be supplied at thirty cents; No. 2, twenty-five cents. Not over ten complete volumes (Nos. 1, 2, 3-4) can be supplied at seventy-five cents each.

We were sorry to hear this summer that our esteemed contemporary, *The Nidologist*, had discontinued publication. Amateur ornithology has lost a good friend, and one that will not soon be replaced. Mr. Taylor deserves much credit for first introducing an illustrated bird paper to an American audience; and for this fact, and for the inspiration that lingered in some of the "Nid." articles, the American ornithological world must acknowledge its indebtedness.



**GENERAL NOTES.****Greenville Notes.**

As late as May 25th last, a large flock of Pine Siskins were feeding on the dandelion seeds close to my house. I think this late for this species, so far south.

On August 16th I shot one of a pair of Black-bellied Plovers at Churchill Lake near here. This makes three of these birds that I have secured at the same place during the past five years.

On October 9th I secured a fine specimen of the Snow Bunting in southern winter plumage. This is far the earliest date in the fall that I have noticed this bird. It was all the more unusual, as the weather was anything but wintry.

What has struck me particularly this season, has been the scarcity of the Night Hawk. I may claim to be fairly observant in matters ornithological, and I can safely say, that whereas during the previous four years, these birds have been very abundant in the proper season, flying in numbers over the city and neighborhood, this year I could have counted them on the fingers of my one hand. And by this, I do not mean in flocks day by day of this number, but as representing the number of birds seen during the whole season. It would be interesting to know if any other observers have noticed this scarcity, which I shall bear in mind next summer.

PERCY SELOUS.

[Perhaps not as common as usual, but occurring in some numbers at Grand Rapids.]

W. E. M.]

**Towhee Wintering in Muskegon County, Mich.**

During the winter of '96-7, a Towhee remained all winter. The weather was rather mild.

A. W. VAN PELT.

Muskegon, Mich.

**Usefulness of the Cedar Waxwing.**

During the locust plague of this spring, our larger insectivorous birds were having a feast. Catbirds, Robins, Bluebirds, Wood Pewees, yea, even Flickers were enjoying the masses of locusts. But for outnumbering them was the Cedar Waxwing. Flock of 15-20-30, catching and devouring locusts, were a common thing. Anyone

who knows the tremendous voracity of this bird, will not be astonished to hear that a flock of about twenty were able to free a big elm tree of locusts in one day. It was strange, too, to see so many as fifteen or twenty of these birds together at so late a period as the 28th of May, and the 9th of June.

Have any of the other members of the club made similar observations this spring?

W. F. HENNINGER.

Waverly, Ohio.

**Acadian Owl in Michigan.**

Mr. Harris of this city shot an Acadian Owl ♀ in May. She had probably nested.

NORMAN A. WOOD,

Ann Arbor.

[Dr. Robt. H. Wolcott told me of several nests of this species being taken in or around Ann Arbor, in past years.]

W. E. M.]

**Notes from Wayne County, Mich.**

Mr. Cadman, of this city, informs me that he witnessed the feeding of a young English Sparrow by a female Red-eyed Vireo. It seems the young Sparrow had lighted on a branch below the Vireo's nest and was so noisy that the brooding bird was annoyed, so she left her nest and in a short time returned with food for the juvenile offender, which, on being fed, flew away.

On May 26th, 1897, I noted a pair of Cerulean Warblers nesting. The nest contained four eggs on June, 6th. It was built on a horizontal branch of a beech tree, thirty-five feet from the ground and six feet out on the limb in a clump of sprouts.

April 18, 1897. Noted the only Turkey Vulture of the season. Last year I saw seven on the wing at one time. Mr. Wm. M. Randall, of Bellville, tells me that they nest in that vicinity.

W. A. DAVIDSON.

Detroit, Mich.

The electric tower lights (150 feet high) at Grand Rapids are the slayers of many birds. The following species are some that have been found under them: Myrtle Warbler, Golden Plover, Sora, Chipping Sparrow, Olive-backed Thrush, Vesper Sparrow, Robin, Tennessee Warbler, Oven Bird and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.



Often on a cloudy night during the migration, when the birds are flying low, great flocks will fly around and around the lights, seemingly fascinated by its rays.

W. E. MULLIKEN.

Grand Rapids, Mich.

#### **An Albino Red-headed Woodpecker.**

Mr. Arthur W. Van Pelt, of Lake Harbor, Michigan, writes to us of a case of albinism in the Red-headed Woodpecker.

The bird was shot by him on September 16, 1897, near a corn field. It was in company with other woodpeckers of the same species, which were feeding upon the corn from the ears.

He gives the following description of the specimen: "Breast, under parts of wings and back, from a point directly between the wings down to the base of the tail, pure, snowy white; head and under parts pure white; crown, mixed white and gray; upper parts of wings and back, light gray; tail, two outside feathers, black, the rest white; bill white, shading to dark on the point; feet orange; eyes hazel. The only red mark on its plumage was a very small spot of rosy red under each eye. It was a male."

T. L. H.

[A partial albino of this species is in the collection of the Kent Scientific Institute at Grand Rapids, Mich. It is not a rare albino.]

#### **Mallard and Red-tailed Hawk.**

While rowing up Flat River this fall, I came upon six Mallards which, at sight of me, took flight, and following the river, went farther up stream. After I had followed the river about two miles, I again came upon the same flock. There were four ducks and two fine drakes. I hid my boat in the rice and watched them. All at once a large Red-tailed Hawk dashed into the flock. All but one of the ducks dove, and this one took wing and had a lively race to keep away from his swift pursuer.

The hawk did not seem to gain on his prize at all, and the poor duck was screaming with terror.

I did not see the result because a bend in the river hid the birds from view. The duck did not try to seek safety in the water, probably on account of its fright.

CLAUD BARLOW.

Greenville, Mich.

#### **Notes from Hastings, Michigan.**

The Cedar Waxwing was more abundant in this locality last spring ('97), than I have ever seen it before. Within two blocks of my house, I counted nine nests.

There were also a good many Blue Birds about. I found two nests, one with four eggs, and the other with three young birds.

GOTTLIEB BESSMER.

#### **A New Bird for Michigan.**

Among a number of bird skins recently donated to the collection at the Michigan Agricultural College, by Oscar B. Warren of Hibbing, Minnesota, there was found a specimen of Harris' Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). The bird was positively identified by Prof. W. B. Barrows.

Mr. Warren, in writing of this specimen says, that it was taken at Palmer, Marquette Co., on September 30, 1894.

This is certainly a most interesting record, which is, in all probability, the only known instance of this species occurring in our state.

T. L. H.

#### **Nesting of the Water Thrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) in Wayne Co., Michigan.**

In the spring of 1895 this pair of birds first came to my notice, and were so wary that it was impossible to approach them near enough to be positive in their identity. In the following spring ('96) I met them again in the same woods, and from their actions concluded they had a nest, but careful watching and beating failed to locate the site, and I was unsuccessful in establishing their identity.

This spring I had more time, and concluded to watch the birds more closely. On May 9th I noted them for the first time, and they were then paired. I kept as good track of them as my spare time allowed, which resulted in my locating the nest on the 19th of May. On that day I beat about some time before hearing their note. At last I found them in a thicket across the ditch from where I stood. I sat down and waited for them to put in appearance; the female did so, flying down to the water's edge in a ditch opposite me. She worked up the stream until lost to view, and then returned on the side I was on. Crossing just above the nest, she would beat up the sides of



the ditch and down to the water's edge. This was kept up for some time, the bird giving occasional notes, and as frequently jerking her tail. I had an excellent opportunity to identify her, for at one time she was less than five feet from me.

I had, up to this time, believed the birds to be *motacilla*, but the type was different from any *motacilla* that I had seen. The rich yellow of the under parts and the heavily marked breast, assured me the bird was *noveboracensis*.

The bird having gone up the bank a few feet above from where I stood (probably 15 ft.) and not appearing, I walked up to opposite from where I last saw her. I here detected her sitting upon her nest, the head alone being in evidence. The nest was well concealed among the roots growing out from sides of the ditch. It was made of grasses and rootlets, on a foundation of leaves, and was lined with grasses. It contained three eggs of the Thrush and one egg of the Cowbird. One egg of the Thrush had been ejected from the nest, probably the work of the Cowbird. The eggs were incubated.

On May 30th the birds had nested again. This nest was built of the same material as the first, and was built from roots extending out from the bank, probably two hundred feet (from memory) down the stream from the former nest. This nest contained six eggs. The eggs were a rich, dark salmon color, with various shades of brown and lilac markings, clustered at the large end and almost hiding the ground color. The eggs turn yellowish white upon being blown.

The woods in which these birds have made their home, are, for the most part, open, with occasional thickets. It is grown up with beech, maple, oak, and a few sycamores. The ground is low, but not marshy, except for several low tracts. In the direct neighborhood of the nests the ground is the highest, but the birds were usually found in the low ground while feeding. The woods comprise six or seven acres.

#### The Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) in Michigan.

During November a good specimen of the Parasitic Jaeger was added to the bird collection of the Museum of the State

Agricultural College, and, so far as I have been able to ascertain, this furnishes the first authentic record for the state. The bird was obtained from Mr. Robt. P. Stark, and was killed at Otter Lake, Lapeer County, September 28, 1897. Mr. Stark writes: "It was swimming around on the lake, and in the evening flew up onto a rye stack which stood beside the lake, apparently to roost, so I got a man to go out there with his gun and kill it for me."

The specimen is a young bird in the dark phase of plumage.

WALTER B. BARROWS.

Agricultural College, Mich.

Dec. 14, 1897.

#### Nesting of the Savannah Sparrow in Ingham County.

On June 21, 1897, while strolling over a piece of low, uncultivated ground—a portion of that wild region north of our college known as Chandler's Marsh—I flushed a small sparrow from before me. It fluttered off through the grass feigning lameness and giving me a good opportunity to identify it as the Savannah Sparrow (*Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna*.)

On looking beneath a thistle near my feet, I found its nest, which was placed in a hollow in the ground, with the top of nest just level with the surface of the ground. I was too late for eggs, but found three young birds.

This species was very common on Chandler's Marsh all through the breeding season, from early in May till late in June. Although I found but one nest, I am sure they bred in abundance.

From what notes I can obtain regarding this species in Michigan, it seem apparent that it does not breed generally in our state, as records of nests being found in Michigan are very rare. However, I have no doubt but that these birds breed in a few localities throughout our state, as they did at Chandler's Marsh this last season.

T. L. HANKINSON.

Agricultural College, Mich.

#### Albino Kingbird.

At the meeting of the M. A. C. Natural History Society Oct. 15, 1897, Prof. W.



B. Barrows exhibited a fine specimen of an albino Kingbird, a recent acquisition to the College Museum. The bird was shot by Mr. O. P. Chapin, Ribble, Huron County, Mich., on June 2, who says that it was in company with two other Kingbirds. It is entirely white with the exception of the orange crown patch and a small dark spot on the tail. The bill and feet are very light, but the eyes were not pink, as might be expected, but were the normal color.

L. J. COLE.

Agricultural College, Mich.

Dr. Wolcott found a nest containing recently hatched young of the White-rumped Shrike at Grand Rapids, about July 15, 1897.

W. E. MULLIKEN.

Grand Rapids, Mich.

The annual meeting of the Michigan Ornithological Club was held in Lansing December 17 and 18. Owing to the non-arrival of the minutes, they are omitted from this issue, but will be printed in the January number.

List of Members.

Elected since the publishing of Bulletin No. 2.

HONORARY. Date of Election.

Dr. Elliott Coues, Washington, D. C.....Aug. 13

ACTIVE.

Edwin S. Bryant, 304 Logan St., Lansing..Dec. 17.

Mrs. M. E. C. Bates, Traverse City.....Dec. 17.

Miss Mable Bates, Traverse City.....Dec. 17.

Miss Frances Margaret Fox, Bay City.....May 3.

I. Hazelwood, Port Huron.....Aug. 13.

Jason E. Nichols, Lansing.....Aug. 13.

Rev. E. C. Oakley, Romeo.... Aug. 13.

Chas. B. Rarden, Greenville.....Aug. 13.

\*D. A. Seeley, Agricultural College.

Harry S. Warren, 1356 John R. st., Detroit.Dec. 17.

ASSOCIATE.

Thos. H. Blodgett, Galesburg, Ill.....Aug. 13.

E. E. Brewster, Iron Mountain.....Dec. 17.

C. C. Collins, Lansing.....Dec. 17.

Geo. W. Dixon, Watertown, S. Dak.....Nov. 16.

Chas. W. Loomis, Agricultural College.....Dec. 17.

Rufus H. Pettit, Agricultural College.....Aug. 13.

Prof. F. E. Sanford, La Grange, Ill,.....Dec. 17.

LEON J. COLE, Secretary.

\*Changed from associate list Dec. 17.



## Photographs from Nature

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A young Yellow-billed Cuckoo in nest, a Brown Thrasher on nest, nest of the Long-billed Marsh Wren, nest and eggs of the Pied-billed Grebe, American Coot, Florida Gallinule, Sora, Green Heron, Prairie Chicken, Whip-poorwill, and Meadow Lark.

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